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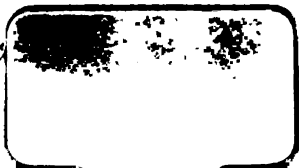


Gough. Add.

Devon.

p. 24.

Map ca





















THE TOWER & GATEWAY OF TIVERTON CASTLE.  
1844.

# THE HISTORY OF TIVERTON,

IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON;

BY

Lt. Col. HARDING, F. G. S.



*Seal granted by James I, with the 1st Charter of Incorporation. 1615.*

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

TIVERTON :

PUBLISHED BY F. BOYCE, BOOKSELLER, FORE STREET, TIVERTON ;

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1845.





## P R E F A C E.

The motives which originally induced me to undertake the following History, and the fear of my inability to do justice to a work that ought to possess more than common interest, render it impossible for me to place before the public the following pages without experiencing much more than the ordinary anxiety of an Author.

The original history of Tiverton, published by Mr. Martin Dunsford in 1790, evidently requires to be extended, and in many instances corrected; and a new edition commenced by the late Mr. George Boyce, although possessing considerable interest, did not present all the advantages which might be derived from the valuable information it has been my good fortune to obtain, both from public and private sources. These considerations, added to a just tribute due from every author to the public, induced me to forego the benefits, and disregard the great reduction of expense which would have resulted from continuing the numbers prepared by Mr. Boyce: if I have failed in my object, it has not been occasioned by want of exertion.

Whether we regard the Town of Tiverton as having been the chief residence of a long line of powerful Nobles, whose rank and influence placed them high in the counsels and honours of the land; or regard the station of great commercial importance it long held; or take a general survey of its chequered History, the result must be the same, that of extreme interest.

The records which mark the events of past years, can only be acquired after a long and tedious search, either among the various depositions of public documents, or amid the still wider Archives of private memorials ; and these have not been sparingly regarded in the following pages. To the many kind friends and influential persons who have lent me their valuable and ready aid, I am bound by every tie of gratitude. Neither am I unmindful of those among the less opulent ranks of life, who have kindly and disinterestedly afforded me their assistance, and contributed much valuable information. To all and each I here convey my unfeigned thanks : and if the work thus offered to the public should attain its object, I feel how much will be due to others rather than myself.

I have taken but limited pains to solicit Subscribers to this work ; and although the number has fallen far short of my hopes or expectations, I return my best thanks to those who have honoured me with their names, a list of which will be given in the second and last volume.

With these necessary observations I take my leave ; and if at a future period I should be called on to renew my labours, I feel myself placed in the position of all Authors, of being able to correct, and in some instances add to the body of evidence which has been here digested.

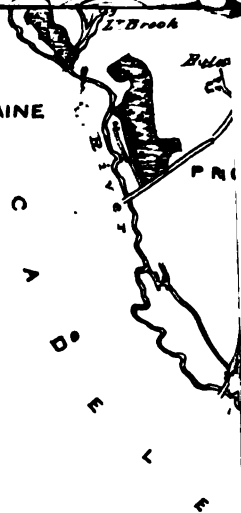
*Tiverton,*

*February 3rd, 1845.*



MAP  
 of the PARISH of  
**TIVERTON**  
 in the COUNTY of

CHERITON FITZPAINE



REFERENCE

Site of Old Chapels.....	•
Buildings.....	—
Roads.....	—
Rivers and Brooks.....	—
Canals and Bridges.....	—
Woods.....	—

# HISTORICAL MEMOIRS,

&c.

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## BOOK I.

### GENERAL HISTORY,

AND

### REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES.

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**IN** a neighbourhood abounding in rich and beautiful scenery, it is not a subject of surprise that the original founders of the Town of TIVERTON should have fixed on so pleasant a spot for it, situated as it is on rising ground, sheltered by hills on every side but the S. E., and sloping on the West to the river Exe, the Isaca or Isca of Ptolomy, the Isc of the Britons, and Saxon Ex, each signifying Water, and bounded on the East by the River Loman, called Suning, or sluggish, a name appropriately applied. It is about 160 miles W. by S. of London, Long. 3. 29. West, and

B

A. D. Lat. 50. 54. North. It is supposed to be one of the largest boroughs in the Kingdom, being in extent about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  from N. to S. and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  from E. to W.

Of its history previous to the Conquest, little is known. It derived its appellation of TIVERTON, by contraction from TWIFORD, or TWO - FORD TOWN,† being formerly approached by two fords over the river Exe and Loman. As the Country between the Exe and Tamar was not wholly conquered by the Saxons until the time of Athelstan, the termination ton, from Tun on Tune British, or the Roman termination dunum, rendered in English, ton, bespeaks its existence at an earlier date, and it may be presumed that during the reign of Alfred, (A. D. 872,) TWYFORD, in TERRA REGIS, was a village on a little hill, and Capital of its hundred of the same name. It was governed by a Portreeve,\* and had 12 tythings,§ and it is very probable to

872.  
890.

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† Called TUNVERTONE in Domesday-book, and TWYVERTON in the Nomina Villarum.

\* "The ancient Saxon term was 'reeve,' synonymous with Mayor; as that title for the head Officer is very common in the early history of almost all the Boroughs in England. It occurs but once in the Laws of Ida, 64 Section. In the 1st Section of the 2nd Chap. of the Laws of Alfred, 150 years later, the 'Kings reeve' is mentioned; and Edward, his successor, provides, that no person shall buy any thing without the gate unless the Portreeve shall be witness,"

Port did not, in Saxon times, mean, according to its modern acceptation, only a sea-port or a haven; but a port or gate.—Merewether's report of the Borough of West-Looe, p. xlii, note d.

§ One of the 10 districts into which, hundreds were divided by

have been one of the many villages or small towns, either built or enlarged by Alfred after the establishment of peace by the Conquest of the Danes, "for which purpose, "say Hume," he set aside a seventh portion of his own revenue for maintaining a number of Workmen, whom he constantly employed in re-building the ruined Cities, Castles, Palaces, and Monasteries."

A. D.

It may also be inferred from a sketch of Anglo-Saxon population towards the termination of their rule in Britain,\* that Tiverton could not be a place of great extent at that time, as after giving 476 Burgesses to Exeter, 83 to Barnstaple, 69 to Lidford, 110 to Totness, and 4 to Oakhampton, only 41 remain, to be divided over so large an extent as the remaining portion of the County of Devon.

By tradition we learn that in 1002 the Inhabitants were of sufficient extent to act in compliance with secret orders issued by Ethelred, for a general massacre of the Danes, to take place on the festival of St. Brice, being on Sunday† November 13th, "when the Danes that were in the TOWN of TWYFORD upon the river Isca, or Aisse, were massacred by the Women, with much secresy, in the night.‡

1002.

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King Alfred, for the better conservation of the peace, and more easy administration of Justice. *Burn Law Dic.*

\* S. Turner's history of Anglo-Saxons, V. 3. p. 244,

† The day on which the Danes were in the habit of bathing. *Hume*

‡ This extract and the foregoing one were taken from an Ancient  
B 2.



A. D.

The hundred of TIVERTON § is described in Domesday-book,\* under the title of TERRA REGIS, or land† belonging to the King; and, according to that book is said to have been held by several persons, during the reign of King Edward the Confessor, as Vassals or Servants of the King.‡

1066.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, independent of the Domesday - book, TIVERTON is mentioned with other parts of Devonshire § as belonging to the King. In *Dialog. de Scaccario*. p. 21. col. 1. and 2. it states, "William 1. was also Lord or possessor of the Towns of Sulfretone, Teintone, Alseminster, and other Towns in Devonshire."

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MSS. written by Mr. Hewett, a Merchant of Tiverton, in 1730, and formerly in possession of Mr. Pullen, of Thorverton.

§ The division of the Kingdom into hundreds was under the legislation of King Alfred, about A. D. 890. The hundred of Tiverton contains the five following Parishes: ——— TIVERTON, HUNTSHAM, UPLOWMAN, CALVERLEIGH, and LOXBEER.

\* A record preserved in the Chapter House at Winchester, and taken by order of William the Conqueror, 1080. It was sometimes called *Rotulus Wintoniæ*, and was the book from which judgment was to be given upon the value, tenures, and services of the lands therein described. The plan was adopted from a survey of Alfred's, called *Dom Boc*, a record which existed in the reign of William 1st, but is since lost. The Domesday-book is generally supposed to have been completed in 1086.

† A Hyde, or Hide of Land is as much as could be tilled after one plough in a year; estimated at from 100 to 120 Acres.

‡ See Appendix, No. 1.

§ The term Shire is derived from the Saxon word *SCYFAN*,

In 1072 the building of the Parish Church was completed, and consecrated by Leofricus 1st. Bishop of Exeter. It is probable, however, that an earlier Church existed, which it was the practice of the Saxons to build of Wood.\*

A. D.  
1072.

Soon after the Conquest, these lands were held by Baldwin de Brionis, or de Molis, a relative and follower of the King, by whom he was created hereditary Earl and Sheriff of Devon, which inheritance, or holding by Feudal tenure descended to his Son, on whose death without issue, the property was given, by Henry I. to his "faithful and beloved Councillor" Richard de Redvers, or Rivers, created Earl of Devonshire, and the nearest relative of Baldwin de Brionis, by whom the Castle was built,† and two Parks, called Castle and Ashley Parks, were subsequently attached to it, the whole forming a Baronial residence of great extent and magnificence, and in whose name it continued for nearly two centuries.

1080.

1106.

It appears most probable that at the period of

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to branch, or divide. The introduction of Shires, or Counties is traced to Alfred about A. D. 890.

\* As soon as the Normans were settled in England, they began to build Churches; and it was commonly believed, that a life spent in rapine and bloodshed was atoned for by giving or bequeathing a portion of the wealth so acquired, for the building and endowing both Churches and Monasteries. See Henry's history of Britain, Vol. 6, page 180 to 184.

† About the year 1106. It is stated by Hewett in his MSS. before referred to, that the Castle at Tiverton was the first building of stone, as well as possessing glazed Windows, in Tiverton.

A. D.  
1106.

which we are now speaking, the Manor of Tiverton no longer formed a part of Terra Regis. This, however was not the case with other portions of Devonshire, for we find that Exeter was the Demesne-City of William 1st, who had there "300 Houses wanting 15 which paid custom."

In the reign of Henry I. the Crown was seized of many Towns in Devon, amongst others was Exeter; and he confirmed to the Priory of the Holy Trinity in London the grant of his Queen Matilda, for the good of her soul, of £25 on the farm of the City of Exeter, and commands his chief Justiciar, and the Barons of his Exchequer to constrain the Sheriff of Devonshire to pay the same to the said Canons.\*

Richard I. confirmed to his Wife Berengaria, the Royal revenues arising from the tin Mines in Devon and Cornwall, valued at 2000 Marks† per Annum for her dower; and King John endowed his Queen‡ most richly with many Towns in the West of England, besides Exeter, and the tin Mines of Devon and Cornwall.

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\* Charter Antiq. N. n. 17.

† A mark of Silver in Henry I. time was 6s. 1d. in weight; now it is 13s. 4d.

‡ Isabella of Angouleme. She was the only Child and heiress of Aymer or Americus, Count of Angouleme, surnamed Taillefer. By maternal descent she shared the blood of the Capetian Sovereigns, her Mother, Alice de Courtenay, being the daughter of Peter de Courtenay, fifth Son of Louis VI, King of France. *Strickland, V. 2. p. 38.*

Edward I. had 285 Houses in Exeter paying £18, and the succeeding Kings retained the Lordship of that City, the Earls of Devonshire holding the Castle by Feudal tenure, to the time of Edward III, who by Charter, dated Waltham cross, 6th day of February in Sixth year of his reign, "granted the City of Exeter to the Citizens, to hold to them, their heirs and Successors, of the King and his heirs, at Fee - farm,\* with all things belonging to the said Ferme, to the end they might live in the greater quiet, and might the better attend their trade and business."

A. D.  
1106.

In tracing the general history of TIVERTON from the earliest period, but little can be said, during the continuance of the Saxon rule, and the absence of commercial enterprise, beyond that, conveyed in the history of the Nobles† and possessors of Manorial rights ; but it may be inferred from

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\* Fee - farm, or ferme, a perpetual' rent, that is to say, sending a yearly rent for ever. *Mados, Firma Burgi.* p. 1.

† Among the Saxons, next to the Princes of the Royal Family, the first degree of the Nobility was that of Ealdorman, which in its primary signification means only an aged Man ; yet it came by degrees to stand for persons of the greatest distinction. There were also inferior Ealdormen in Cities and Boroughs, which has given name to Alderman.

After the Danes were settled in England, the title of Ealdorman was by degrees changed into that of Earl, a Danish word of the same import.

Next to the Earls and Dukes, were the high - Sheriffs of the Counties. They were followed by the Thanes, a Saxon word signifying Minister or Servant. These were both ecclesiastical and civil, the

A. D.  
1106.

the continual incursions of the Danes in the West of England, and from their repeated attacks on Exeter, that the neighbourhood of Tiverton was not exempted from the ravages of these Invaders.

The remains of a hill fortress also at Skrink-hills, ‡ a portion of which is still visible on the rising ground S. S. E. of the Town, bespeaks an earlier residence here ; and the report of Marianus and Florentius of a great conflict having taken place at Bahantune, (now Bampton,) A. D. 620, between the Saxons under Kenegel, the First Christian King of the West-Saxons, and the Britains, where 20,000 of the latter perished on the field, adds strength to such a conviction.

“ Although we have no direct evidence from records, § that Cities and Boroughs were represented in the Witena-gemot, || yet there seems to be

former termed Mass-Thanes, and the latter werold-Thanes, who were again formed into three Classes. The lowest order were the Ceortes, that is, Merchants, artificers, countrymen, and others. Thanes were afterwards termed Barons. *Rapin, V. 2. p. 7 to 13, 8vo. edn.*

‡ “ The Communication by a chain of posts from Castle Down near South Molton, and Berry-Castle in Witheridge, is imagined to be thro’ Tiverton to Hembury Fort, on Black-down near Honiton.”  
*Collectanea Curiosa, p. 24.*

§ S. Turner’s history of the Anglo-Saxons.

|| Or great council of the Nation: and although it has been generally supposed to have consisted of the Ealdermen and Thanes of the first rank, (after styled Earls and Barons,) its absolute formation is not positively known. It has severally been termed *Michel-synoth*, or great Council; Michel-gemote, or great meeting, and more frequently Witena-gemote, or the meeting of Wise-Men.

sufficient probabilities of evidence that the fact was so. The claim of the Borough of Barnstaple, in Devonshire, must have considerable weight on our judgments when we reflect on this subject. In a petition to parliament, presented in the reign of Edward 3, this borough claimed to have been chartered by Athelstan, with several privileges, and to have sent, from time immemorial Burgesses to parliament. Its claims were investigated by Jurors legally appointed, and tho' from the loss of the Charter, the other immunities were not confirmed, its right of sending Burgesses was admitted to continue."§

A. D.

1106.

At the period of which we are now speaking, shortly before the Norman Conquest, the Anglo-Saxon population must have exceeded two Million, a great portion of which were in a state of servitude.

When the Saxons completed the subjugation of England, about A. D. 600, they retained and enjoyed the same extended liberty and independence, which they possessed in their own Country, and inherited from their Ancestors. They were little restrained by laws; averse in their general feelings and practice to commerce and arts; and addicted to little beyond the use and exercise of arms, and the power they gained thereby.\* The

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§ Vol. 3. p. 201.

\* "The Saxons were bred up to arms, "says Rapin," from their infancy, and War may be said to be their only profession.

- A. D. Nobles were almost Omnipotent, regarding their King more as the first among the citizens, than an hereditary Sovereign. The Anglo-Saxons are generally represented as a rude uncultivated people, ignorant of letters, unskilled in the mechanical arts, and addicted to intemperance and disorder; and although the mighty genius of Alfred prompting him to undertake a work so gigantic in itself, as that of remodelling the constitution, which he had to reform out of such discordant materials, operated as a check to the arbitrary spirit of the age, and enabled the Nation to repose under one uniform system of legislation, we find them at the termination of the Saxon rule, not many degrees removed from a state of Barbarism.

Although the Feudal system,† which originated

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They came to their general assemblies armed; and shewed their approbation of what was proposed by striking their javelin one against another. Their usual arms were the sword, club, battle-axe or bill, and javelin. As they had no bows and arrows, their battles were the more bloody. After darting their javelins, they came to close fight. They prided themselves on their courage and bravery, which led to many family feuds, and as they dreaded the name of Coward, it seldom terminated but with the extinction of one of the families." V. 2. p. 55.

† "From Feoda, feuds, feifs, or fees; which last appellation, in the Northern languages, signifies a conditional stipend or reward, (*Blackstone*, 2. 45.) The distinguishing characteristics of this peculiar holding, was, that property or estate so held, was not absolute and independent ownership; (*Cyclopædia*, V. 10.) and the condition annexed to them was, that the possessor should do service faithfully, both at home and in the Wars, and he was bound by an oath of fealty." (*Blackstone*, 45.)

in the Northern States, became by degrees established over the continent of Europe, it was not universally received in Britain 'till the reign of William the 1st. He divided England into 62215\* Military Serfs, all held of the Crown; the possessors of which were, on pain of forfeiture, to take up arms, and repair to his standard on the first signal: he subjugated not only the common people, but the Barons also, to all the rigour of the feudal Government: and even imposed on them his tyrannical Forest Laws.†

A. D.  
1106.

He arrogated to himself the most extensive

"This system had its original from the Military policy of the Northern or Celtic Nations, the Goths, the Huns, the Franks, the Vandals, and the Lombards, who all migrating from the same *Officina gentium*, poured themselves in vast quantities into all the regions of Europe, at the declension of the Roman Empire."

"Scarce had these Northern Conquerors established themselves in their new Dominions, when the wisdom of their Constitutions, as well as their personal valour, alarmed all the Princes of Europe; and thus, in the compass of a few years, the Feodal constitution, or the doctrine of tenure, extended itself over all the Western world." (*Blackstone*, 2. 45. 47.)

\* Smith's Wealth of Nations.

‡ The Forest Laws were introduced by William the Conqueror, investing him with the sole right, which he exerted with the utmost rigour of sporting over the various and widely extended Forests of England, and depopulating whole tracts of Country, in the formation of New ones, (*Vide the New Forest.*) and under the colour of these laws exercised the most horrid tyrannies and oppressions, making the death of a beast, killed within the precincts of the forest, equal to that of a Man. He granted to his Nobles the power of forming Chases or Parks, but they were not governed by the Forest Laws. These Laws were exercised with such relentless vigour by King John, that the Nobles rose and demanded their abrogation. (*Blackstone.*)

C 2.



A. D. 1106. judicial power by the establishment of what was called *Aula Regis*,\* a tribunal that received appeals from all the Courts of the Barons; and having the King himself as president, it kept the first Nobles in the land under the same control as the meanest subject.

It was the extensive authority thus exercised which in the end made England free. The Barons became impatient of control, and finding themselves curbed in their power, and stung by the injustice of public impositions, of tyrannical judicial proceedings, and above all, by the arbitrary Forest Laws, they, fully sensible that the Feudal system invested them with the same power over their Vassals, that the King possessed over the whole, in the succeeding Reigns did not fail to exercise that influence which was thus placed within their reach. Each Barony formed almost a separate state, or independent province, and England presented to neighbouring Nations such an extensive Aristocratic power, as tended in a great measure, to eclipse the Royal Authority.

At this period we find that Baldwin de Redvers had 164 Manors and Lordships; and although in accordance with the principle and practice of

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\* *Aula Regis*, a Court instituted by William I. which was held in his own Hall, and composed of the King's great Officers of state, resident in his Palace, and usually attendant on his person. The great Charter removed this tribunal to Westminster Hall, where it has since remained. *Aula ecclesiæ*, was the nave or body of the Church, where the temporal courts were frequently holden of ancient time. (*Blackstone.*)

Feudal tenure, he may have held these Manors of the King, he acquired sufficient power to grant him almost absolute control.

A. D.

1106.

The power thus gained by the Nobles, and the great and extensive influence exercised by the Clergy over the human mind, during this age of ignorance and superstition, led to the extensive revolts and insurrections which characterized the earlier part of the reign of William Rufus; and although these petty wars and commotions, were sunk in the tumult of the Crusades, the additional support given at a later period by Stephen, "in imprudently permitting his Nobles to build or fortify upwards of 1000 of those strong holds of wrong and robbery called Castles, which rendered their owners in great measure independent of the Crown,"\* received a practical reproof from Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devonshire, son and heir of the first of that name, for the incautious conduct of which he had been guilty, by being the first to tell him, on some slight cause of offence, that "he was not King of right, and he would obey him no longer," and the Earl followed this threat by fortifying his Castle at Exeter, where he acted as Sovereign, exercising a tyrannical power upon the citizens."† The King considered this of sufficient importance to march in person and lay siege to Exeter, which, after a considerable time, he succeeded in taking.

1150.

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\* Strickland, Vol. 1. p. 251.

† Rapin, v. 2. p. 201.

- A. D. He pursued the Earl to the Isle of Wight, of  
1150. which he was also Lord, banished him the realm,  
and disinherited him.”\*

The Inhabitants of Tiverton and its neighbourhood, were doubtless much involved in the War between Stephen and the Empress Maud, § which must have entailed on them all the evils and distresses attendant on civil strife; although, perhaps, only in common with almost every part of Devonshire, as we find that Henry de Tracy, Lord of the Manor of Barnstaple, was the only person of influence, who stood firm to the King.

In such gloomy and perilous times, it is natural to suppose but little encouragement could be given to the cultivation of useful arts and manufacture; and it renders it highly improbable that a trade of any kind existed, at that early period, in Tiverton.

The dress of the Saxon peasantry, and for Centuries after the Conquest, was of leather, and it has been stated that the “buff jerkin,” retained its place among the labouring people until the time of the Commonwealth. But Rapin and others describe the dress of the Inhabitants of Villages and small Towns, during the reigns of John and

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\* Rapin.

§ On Baldwin's being driven from Exeter, and previous to his retiring to the Isle of Wight, it is believed he was besieged in his Castle at Tiverton. (*Edinb. Ga.*)

Henry 3, as being generally composed of coarse serge ; simple in its form, and made straight and close to the body ; and this was said to be the Manufacture of the Low Countries chiefly from British Wool.\*

A. D.

1150.

At the time of Edward 2., it is probable a trade in coarse woollen cloth existed in Barnstaple ; for we find in the 2nd. of that reign, (1308) "The Mayor and Burgesses petitioned the Lord Treasurer, to have the custom on narrow cloth, imposed 28 Edward 1, taken off;" and it is highly probable that a traffic of a similar kind may have been carried on at Tiverton.

1308.

The origin of Woollen Manufacture is beyond the reach of tradition ; but there is reason to believe that the trade had reached to considerable perfection among the Romans. From this period however to the Norman Conquest, no records exist ; and after that time, to the reign of Edward 3., the notices scattered among authentic Historians, are extremely scanty.

William of Malmesbury states, that, some Flemish Weavers established themselves in the neighbourhood of Carlisle, during the reign of William 1 ; and that in the time of Henry first, they removed

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\* Edward 3. erected Winchester into the Staple or Mart for Wool, which gave to it some reputation ; but the plague, which raged in the City and neighbourhood, caused the removal of the trade to Calais, then an English fortress, about 1360.

A. D. 1224. into Pembrokeshire,|| South Wales. During the same reign, Cloth-Weavers are mentioned in the Exchequer accounts ;† and in the two following reigns they are represented as paying fines to the Crown for the privilege of carrying on their trade.§

1200. Mr. Cullock, in his Statistical account of the British Empire, v. 2. p. 43, remarks, that there are Notices in the Statute-book of broad-cloth two yards within the list, in the time of Henry 3. \* and in the reign of Edward 1. the Office of Aulnager† of cloth was held for some time by one Peroult le Tayleur ; but he having forfeited it, the Office was conferred, by command of the King, on one Pierre de Edmonton, “if he were fit for it.” Assuming therefore, that a coarse woollen Manufacture existed in England at this early period, it appears most probable that like other Countries, where Arts and Manufacture were in a state of infancy, that it became a household work in which almost all the members of a family performed a part, without its being a habit of general business.

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|| They settled west of the river Cleddy, and their appearance and manners are still distinct from the Natives around them, and they do not speak the Welsh language.

† Madox.

§ Madox.

\* 9. Henry 3. c. 25, 1224.

† Aulnager from ulna, an ell in length, was an ancient Office appointed by the King, with a Salary, whose business it was to measure all Cloth made for sale, that the King might not be defrauded of his Customs and duties. *Burns Law dic.*

A. D.  
1200.

As early as the year 1200 Tiverton had a weekly market on Monday, and three fairs annually, July 7th, September 1st, and November 30th. The Market tolls were the property of the Lords of the Manor, one of whom\* afterwards gave the profits for the benefit of the poor, entrusting them to the care of eleven of the principal inhabitants, by whose successors they are still devoted to that purpose.†

The Town at this period is said to have been large and of triangular form; and it is not unlikely that Frog Street may have been first built, from its neighbourhood to the Castle, either for the accommodation of persons dependant on the Lords of the Manor, or for additional security. Peter Street, takes its name from the Church; Newport Street from its vicinity to the principal Castle entrance; and Gold Street, Fore Street, then High Street,‡ and Angel-hill, communicating the two rivers, probably formed the Southern boundary; while Bampton Street, and Barrington, terminating at the Town's end completed the triangle; it is right, however, to conclude that judging from other towns, the whole presented but a rude appearance.

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\* Hugh Courtenay, second Earl of Devonshire. see part 2.

† See part 4.

‡ When the name of this Street was changed to Fore Street, I cannot find, but it was called High Street as late as 1731.

A. D.  
1200.

The common dwellings were, in those days, built of wood or stakes, and mud, thatched with reed,|| similar to the cabins in many parts of Ireland at the present day. They have but one floor, and no chimney; a small opening in the roof, and a wood latticed window, with the door, supplying the means of ventilation, and frequently the latter only. The streets were irregular and only partially paved; while heaps of dung and stacks of corn and hay were interspersed with the houses.\*

1250.

Tiverton began, however, at this period, to receive much of the attention and care of the Lords of the Manor.† About the year 1250, Isabella, Countess of Devon and Albemarle, caused a stream of water to be conducted from its source, a distance of full five miles, into the town, to supply the inhabitants with clear running water for ever,‡

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|| "Even in the capital City of London, all the houses of mechanics, and common burgesses were built of wood, and covered with straw or reed, towards the end of the 12th Century." (Henry's his. of Great Britain, V. 4, p. 112, and V. 6, p. 186.

\* In parts of Ireland at the present day it is not unusual to see deposited a large heap of dung, and refuse of stable and pig-sty, quite close to the dwelling, while pigs and poultry share the habitation of their possessors.

† At this period the power of the Lords was so great, that the Lady Amicia Rivers, widow of Baldwin Rivers, in answer to a quo warranto issued in the 10th year of Edward I. claimed among other rights and privileges the power to hang, draw and quarter within her Manor of Twyford; the gallows standing upon Whitedown, leading to the Town of Cullompton. Her claim was allowed. Two persons were executed at White-down in 1626. (See p. 36.)

‡ See part 4, Public Charities.

which benefit is enjoyed at the present time. This benefaction was not the only advantage which the poor derived from the same beneficent hand, for she appropriated the common of Elmore, (a corruption of Eel-more,) in extent about 150 acres to their especial use, for pasturing their cattle; and they were also permitted to take from thence earth and clay, on condition of filling the pits with manure, or rubbish, so that the common might be preserved in a proper state for pasture. Before the year 1290, a nightly watch, consisting of one Constable and six Assistants were appointed to patrol the Town during the summer months, from Ascension-day to Michaelmas, to see that the water was kept running through every street; and to give alarm in case of fire, by ringing the Market bell, and to apprehend all disorderly persons. §

A. D.  
1250.

1290.

Notwithstanding the salutary regulations thus made, and the advantages secured to the Inhabitants by their wealthy superiors, the lower orders were, at this period, in a state of great wretchedness. The despotism practised by the early Norman Kings, was exercised by the greater part of the Barons on their vassals. The prices of provisions were rendered unsteady, by the repeated desolations of war, wheat varying from 1½d per bushel, to £1. || Famine had desolated the land;

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§ See Hewett's memoirs. This watch was continued until 1802.

|| 1½d. would be considered equal to about 2s. or 18d. below the value of Money at the present time. 27. Edward I. A. D. 1299, "an Act



A. D.  
1290.

and the power of the Priesthood, acting on a superstitious and barbarous population, combined to reduce the lower orders to a state of great misery. The excess of intemperance, introduced by the Danes, was the ruling vice; robust exercises the common games. The minds of the people were uncultivated, and their language rude and indelicate. The dress of the peasantry was plain and simple, as before stated, while that of their superiors was costly and extravagant. Men wore shoes so long, that they were hung by chains to their knees, and the head dress of the ladies was so high, that the face appeared nearly at the middle of the body.\*

Although the National commerce had greatly increased since the conquest, it was still exceedingly limited. The interest of money was sometimes

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of Common Councill was made for prices of victualles to bee sold at London, by consent of the King and nobilitie, concerning the price of powltrie. A fatte Cocke for 1½d, two puluts for 1½d, a fatte Capon for 2½d, a goose for 4d, a Mallard for 1½d, a partridge for 3d, a fesant for 4d, a Heron for 6d, a plover for 1d, a Swanne for 3s, a Crane for 12d, two Woodcocks for 1½d, a fat Lamb from Xmas to shrove-tyde, 16d, and all the other yeare after for 4d." Stowe's Annals, p. 107, 108, 7. E. 2. A. D. 1314. "The morrow after Candlemas day there assembled a parliament at London, to treate of the state of the Kingdome, and howe to bring down the prices of victualles, that were now grown to bee so deere, that the Common people were not able to live. It was therefore ordayned, that no Oxe stalled or corne fed, be solde for more than 24s: no grasse fed Oxe for more than 16s: a fat stalled Cow at 12s: another Cow at 10s: a fat Mutton corne fed, or where wooll is well grown at 20d: another fat Mutton shorne, at 14d: a fatte Hogge of 2 years old, at 3s. 4d." Stowe p. 217.

\* Henry's Great Britain, Vol. 8. p. 401. This stile of dress, with party coloured cloths, was the dress in Edward 3. reign.

more than 50 per cent. "All communications were rendered dangerous, and property precarious,\* "Men were never secure in their houses, and whole Villages were often plundered by bands of robbers."†

A. D.  
1290.

From a situation so deplorable we may hail with satisfaction the dawn of a brighter age in the reign of Edward 1., who, in 1302, granted a charter in favor of foreign Merchants and Manufacturers, to attract the trade of Flanders and Brabant into this country. Until the 14th century, the commerce of this nation principally consisted in unmanufactured wool, which was either sold in the fleece when shorn off, or with the skins whereon it grew, (called in our statutes wool-fells,) to the Flemings and Brabanters,‡ or such other Foreign Merchants as came to buy them; particularly to those of Gaunt and Lovaine, who had for above 300 years supplied this, and other parts of Europe, with all sorts of woollen cloths, so that to the time of Edward 3, much of our wearing apparel was imported from abroad.

1302.

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\* Hume, V. 2. p. 227. 2 ed. 228. Chronicle of Dunstable. Two Merchants of Brabant came to the King at Winchester, and told him that they had been spoiled of all their goods by certain Robbers, whom they knew, because they saw their faces every day in his Court.

"Knights and Esquires," says the dictum of Kenilworth, "who were robbers, if they have no land, shall pay the half of their goods, and find sufficient security to keep henceforth the peace of the kingdom."

† Hume, V. 2. p. 227.

‡ This traffic in unmanufactured wool, led to the Institution of the "Golden Fleece," by the Duke of Burgundy.

A. D.  
1330.

"In the 4th of Edward 3, 1330, John Kemp, a Flanders cloth-worker, received a license to establish himself in this country. Accordingly he settled, with a number of dyers and fullers, at Kendal in Westmorland, where his name appears at this day."†

1337.

The 11th of the same reign, A. D. 1337, directed that no cloths made beyond the sea, should be brought into the King's dominions ;\* and the

1350.

25. Edward 3, c. 2. 1350, enacted "That the Staple of Wool, Leather, Woolfells, and Lead, growing or coming forth within our said Realm and Lands, shall be perpetually holden at the places under written ; that is to say, for England, at Newcastle upon Tine, York, Lincoln, Norwich, Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Winchester, Exeter, and Bristow ; and that all the said Wools, as well old as new, Woolfells, Leather, and Lead, which shall be carried out of the said Realm, and Lands, shall be first brought to the said Staples ; and

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† 'Kendal-green' afterwards became celebrated.

\* "In the same Parliament, 10. Edward 3. A. D. 1336. (feast of Epiphany) it was enacted, that no wool growing within the Realme of England, should be transposed out of the same, but that it should be made into cloth in England, and that all Fullers, Weavers, and Cloath workers of everie degree, being sufficiently instructed, and cunning in their Arte, from what country soever they come into England, should receive and enjoy certaine priviledges, yea and moreover should live at the Kinges charges out of the Exchequer, untill they had provided commodiously to live by their Art."

"Although this statute seemed at the beginning to be nothing profitable, yet in short time the art of Clothing encreased so much thereby, that it was 20 times more used than before." *Stowe's Annals*, p. 233, 234.

all the Wools shall be weighed and sealed with the seal of the Mayor of the Staples."

A. D.  
1350.

These wise and salutary measures were followed by an enactment, the 27. Edward 3. c. 1. A. D. 1353, granting "safe conduct to Merchant Strangers to come and dwell in this Realm, and to return when they will, and none of their goods to be taken by the King's Purveyors without their consent;" and the following Chapter prohibits, on pain of conviction for felony, "the export of Wool, Woolfells, Leather or Lead from England, Wales, or Ireland." Thus, by an extensive and judicious system of legislation, this excellent King established the manufacture of woollen cloths throughout his dominions, so that at the termination of a long and glorious reign, he left this part of English trade in a flourishing condition; and this to at a time when the export of raw wool to foreign lands, was a source of considerable revenue.\*

1353.

The date at which the woollen trade was established at Tiverton, does not appear, but some foreign weavers were settled at Taunton in 1336, from whence it most probably reached Tiverton.

1336.

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\* Besides the usual taxes, the laity granted Edward 3. at one time, half their wool throughout the Kingdom: and the Clergy, Nine Marks for every sack of their best wool; so that the King exported to Brabant in one year, 10,000 sacks of wool, which sold there at the price of £40 sterling per sack; a proof that exporting wool was a great branch of commerce. At another time he had a subsidy of 40s. per sack on wool, for three years; which amounted to £60,000 per annum. The weight of a sack of wool was 464lbs.

A. D.  
1336.

About this period the manufacture of wool appears to have spread itself over the country. (Rymus Fœdera.) Woollen fustians were made at Norwich; baizes at Salisbury, and Sudbury in Suffolk; broad-cloths in Kent; kerseys in Devon; friezes in Wales; serges at Taunton; &c.\*

1463.

That the Devonians on the West and South West of Dartmoor manufactured a particular sort of clothing with their coarse wool, in, and long before the time of Edward 4, appears from a statute in the third of that reign (1463, c. 2.) declaring that in prohibiting the introduction of flocks in woollen manufactures, the Hundreds of Lifton, Tavystocke, and Roborough in Devon, were to be specially exempted, by reason of the wool grown in those districts being of so gross and stubborn a nature,† it could not be advantageously

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\* The exports of British wool and manufacture in 1355, according to the records in the exchequer, was as follows:—

Wool	31,650½ sacks, at 240lbs. the sack.
Fells	3665.
Cloth	4774.
Worsted	8061 pieces.

In the same year it was enacted, that “no Servant in husbandry, nor inhabiting out of a City or Borough, shall use or wear in their clothing any cloth above 2s. the broad yard.” “At that time 2s. contained very nearly the same quantity of Silver as four of our present Money. (1793.) Therefore Yorkshire cloth which is now sold for 4s. the yard, is probably much superior to any that was then made for the wearing of the very poorest order of common Servants, and consequently in proportion to the quality, be somewhat cheaper than it was in those ancient times.” (*Smith's Wealth of Nations*, Vol 1. p. 387.)

† The average weight of a Dartmoor Sheep, which are small in size, is estimated at 8lbs; of an Exmoor, 7; a Bampton note, from 6½ to 8.

manufactured without.\*

A. D.

1463.

The period at which we have now reached is one of the most eventful and interesting in British history. The great advance made in the kingdom, as regarded manufacture, received an early check in the desolation occasioned by the wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster; the active and prominent part taken by the Earls of Devon, in supporting the Lancastrian branch, must naturally have operated most strongly on the welfare and trade of Tiverton; in the course of which time no less than four successive Earls of Devon, fell either in battle, or on the scaffold; and during that unhappy period, perished the flower of our English nobility.

The fall of Richard 3rd, at the battle of Bosworth field; (1485.) the establishment of the Duke of Richmond on the throne of England as Henry 7th, and the union of the rival Houses, in the marriage of Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Edward 4th to the King, lulled the tumult that had so long been raised; and the impulse given to trade by the policy of Henry 7th, the discovery of

1485.

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\* On the plea of the superiority of English wool, the clothmakers of London had been forbidden, as early as the reign of Henry 2, 1185, to mix Spanish with native wool. (*En. Br.*) For the remainder of the Act of 7. Edward 4. see Appendix, No. 2.

It appears probable that a coarse description of woollen cloth, was early introduced into England, and as the art was known to the Romans previously to their arrival in Britain, as before stated, it is not unlikely they introduced it here.

A. D. the Western World, and the new passage opened  
1485. to the East, by the Cape of good hope, had a salutary effect on manufacture.†

By granting to his Nobles the power of alienating their lands, and breaking the ancient entails, Henry enabled the commoners to augment their property, and diminished the power of the Barons, whose taste for luxury and expensive pleasures, had engaged them in new and unusual extravagance, commerce and industry, made every day greater progress; the introduction of the art of printing diffused its light throughout the land,—the termination of civil war, added fresh vigour and courage to commercial enterprize,—and whatever may have been his motive, whether personal ambition, or selfish gratification, at the close of Henry's reign, a considerable improvement had taken place in British commerce.

1509. As may naturally be supposed Tiverton derived considerable benefit from the extension of the woollen trade, and we find at the opening of the sixteenth century, that several active and opulent woollen manufacturers were residents or natives

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† In evidence of this improvement, it was enacted, 4. H. 7, 1387, that, "whosoever shall sell by retail a broad yard of the finest Scarlet grained, or of other grained cloth of the finest making, above 16s. shall forfeit 40s. for every yard so sold." "16s. therefore, containing about the same quantity of Silver as 24s. of our present money, (1793) was, at that time reckoned not an unreasonable price for a yard of the finest Cloth; and as this is a sumptuary law, such cloth, it is probable, had usually been sold somewhat dearer. A guinea may be reckoned the highest price in the present times." *Smith's Wealth of Nations*, Vol. 1. p. 386.

of the town. Its trade chiefly consisted of baize, plain cloths, and kerseys, and a profitable commerce was carried on by many of the Merchants,\* with Spain, notwithstanding the risk that accompanied it.†

A. D.

1509.

The statutes enacted by 5 and 27, Henry 8th, affecting cloths called white straits of Devon, and Devonshire kerseys called dozens, (often termed Tiverton kerseys,) is evidence of the extensive trade existing at that period in the county; but as our foreign commerce was almost entirely confined to the Netherlands, the rupture between England and the Low Countries in 1528, produced a serious effect on British Manufacture.‡

1514.

1536.

It appears that during the reign of Edward 6th, there was almost a total stagnation of trade in Tiverton. The unsettled state of religious feeling, which prevailed at this time, and a change so full of importance, and affecting such strong

1547.

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\* John Greenway, is called by Blundell a Spanish Merchant. "He was *born* of very mean parentage, yet, by the blessing of God and a diligent hand, he grew vastly rich. His particular employment at last, was buying wool in Ireland, and transporting it into England, which returned him a vast increase. A considerable part whereof, if not the whole, he laid out in works of piety and charity." (*Blundell.*)

† At this time, or a little before, the best Wheat sold in the Markets for 6s. the Bushel. (*Isaac.*)

‡ In 1517, the front wall of the south aisle, and great porch and Chapel adjoining, of St. Peter's Church, was completed by John Greenway. Also a Chapel and Alms-houses for five poor Men in Gold Street. (*Dunford.*)



A. D.  
1547.

and powerful interests, as that possessed by the Church at the period of the Reformation, it was not to be expected, could be established without great and severe contests. Men were called on not only to reform abuses, but to abandon the practice and principle of early life; and it is natural to suppose that the Church itself would, in many instances, oppose a measure tending to destroy much of its power, and alienate its resources; although the motives of the Reformers of the 16th century was to alter nothing for the sake of novelty, but to effect a release from Popish corruptions and innovations, and to settle the doctrines, discipline, and worship of the English Church in accordance with the general precepts of Holy Scripture, and the faith and practice of the first and purest ages of Christianity. It was not, however, the operation of a short period, or the honest endeavours of the leaders in the Reformation, that drew one-fourth of the population of Europe, from the principles of the Roman Catholic faith. Many and powerful interests were strongly opposed to it, and we have reason to believe that some of the principal inhabitants of Tiverton, as well as in the County of Devon, continued their adherence to the Popish Church.\*

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\* The following Chapels and Oratory's existed in the town and parish of Tiverton at this time, but there is no evidence of their being in use at a later date than 1554, with the exception of Cove.

IN THE TOWN.

1. A Chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, where the Bank of Messrs. Dunsford and Barne now stands.

The act of Edward 6, directing the establishment of the present Church liturgy, (to commence on Whit-Sunday 1549,) and the introduction of the new book of Common prayer, met with considerable opposition in Devonshire; and the mistaken zeal which led to the violent destruction of images, the indecent violation of sacred shrines, and the wanton demolition of many noble monuments, were

2. A Chapel dedicated to St. Andrew, on the site of the Bridewell.

3. And a Chapel dedicated to St. Peter, where the Independent Meeting-house now stands.

4. Chapel dedicated to St. Mary, on Exebridge.

#### IN THE PARISH.

5. A Chapel or Oratory, at Farleigh.

6. A Chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, at Chettiscombe. The building was in existence 50 years since.

7. A Chapel dedicated to St. Katherine, at Witleigh, called in Bishop Stafford's register, East Bradleigh.

8. At Tidcombe, a private Chapel or Oratory, which was in existence at a recent date.

9. A private Chapel or Oratory at East Chevithorne, or Chevithorne Barton, belonging to the Francis family.

10. A Chapel dedicated to St. Matthew, at Palmershayes; also,

11. At Fairby, both of which were licensed by Bishop Lacy, 1425.

12. A Chapel at Cove dedicated to St. John the Baptist, where service is now performed.

13. A Chapel at Bolham dedicated to St. Bartholomew. The building still exists, but is converted into cottages.

14. A Chapel at East Mare, dedicated to St. Lawrence.

15. A Chapel at East Manley.

16. A Chapel dedicated to St. James, at Hill, near the Seven Crosses.

17. } Two Chapels, one dedicated to St. Luke the Evangelist, and

18. } the other to St. Stephen; they were licensed by Bishop Stafford, 22nd November, 1408, but I cannot find out where they were, probably one of them was the Chapel at West Manley.

For a full account of these Chapels, as well as the Church, and its property generally, see part 3.

A. D. 1549. calculated, as it proved, to be the herald of very serious disorder. The religious zeal of both parties was kindled, and in 1549 the "Popish faction broke out into dangerous rebellion; and although they were quickly suppressed in several counties, in Devonshire and Cornwall, their numbers and influence rendered them formidable;" and a priest in Exeter, (says Isaac,) fanned the flame by every motive which zeal for the Roman Catholic religion could suggest.

Bishop Barnett, in his history of the Reformation, says also,\* that in Devonshire, 1549, the insurrection grew to be better formed; for that county was not only far from Court, but it was generally inclined to the former superstition; and many of the old Priests were in among them. They came together on the 10th of June, being Whitsunday, and in a short time grew to be 10,000 strong; Arundell, of Cornwall being in chief command. They proposed to the government 15 articles,† which were of course rejected. The Rebels besieged Exeter, where the citizens resisted them with great courage. They set fire to the gates of the city, which those within fed with much fuel. They were in the end defeated by John Lord Russell, Lord Grey, and others, and Arundell, Boyer, the Mayor of Bodmin, Temson, Burret, two priests, with six or seven more, were taken

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\* Vol 2. p. 115.

† See vol. 2, p. 115.

and hanged;\* Stowe adds, that on the 27th January, 1550, Henry Arundell, Esq. Thomas Holmes, Winslowe, and Berry, Captains of the Rebels in Devonshire, were hanged and quartered at Tyborne.

A. D.  
1549.

Tiverton did not escape the evils of civil war. A battle was fought at Cranmore Castle, belonging to the barton of Collipriest, south of Tiverton, and called Skrinkhills, "occasioned by the baptizing of a child at Sampford Peverell. The old men were for the Roman Catholic way; the young men for the Protestant way. At length they came into open Rebellion, and the King's army taking several of them prisoners, many were hanged and quartered." †

1555.

The persecutions which marked the commencement of Mary's reign, and the principles observed by her government, made a very considerable change in the state of the Reformation. Still open insurrection was checked by the vigour

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† A very similar story is told, as occurring at the same time, at Sampford Courtenay, near Oakhampton. "This place is to be remembered," (says Risdon,) "for the insurrection, in the time of Edward 6, began here the 10th of June 1549, by two of the inhabitants: the one would have no Gentlemen, the other no Justices of the peace, intending to destroy all such as were rich, or in authority; whereupon one William Hellion, Gent. persuading them to be obedient to the Laws, was by them hewn to pieces; whom though they accounted an Heretic, yet buried they him in the Churchyard north and south. They also imprisoned divers Gentlemen in the Church and Tower there." See also *Magna Brit.*

Dunsford p. 176, Note 30, is wrong in supposing Blundell to have mistaken Sampford Courtenay for Sampford Peverell.

A. D.  
1555.

with which the Queen, and her favorite advisers, Gardiner, and Bonner, exercised their power over those who had either taken an active part in the alteration of the discipline and doctrines of the Church, or came in any way under the denomination of Heretics, for it is computed that between February 1555, and November 1558, 277 persons were brought to the stake, besides those who were punished by imprisonment, fines, and confiscation. Among the sufferers by fire, were 5 bishops, 21 clergymen, 8 lay-men, 84 tradesmen, 100 husbandmen, servants, and laborers, 50 women, and 4 children. Amidst these scenes of bigotry and oppression it is reasonable to suppose that commerce and manufacture did not make any rapid progress; still the woollen trade in Tiverton seems to have revived, and some of the enactments of Philip and Mary, tended to encourage commercial enterprise.

“In the reign of Elizabeth, woollen manufacture had risen to a degree of considerable consequence, and this period was a grand era of active exertion. The Devonshire kerseys were then in great request, and generally known by the name of Tiverton kerseys,\* probably from the manufacture of that place exceeding others, either in quality,

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\* Kerseys were serge cloths made of scribbled, or carded yarn, at first with Devonshire wool only, afterwards with Cornish or Dorsetshire wool, and some other sorts supplied weekly from London. These goods were of fine quality and spinning, and well weaved, but much of the excellence of this manufacture depended on the fuller. (*See Risdon, Chappel.*)

or quantity ;”|| and the extensive benefactions which mark this particular period, is the surest evidence of the thriving state of the inhabitants. A vast number of fulling mills were in active employ on the numerous streams in the district ; and Tiverton bid fair to rival the more populous parts of England.†

A. D.  
1555.

Elizabeth, in following the steps of some of her predecessors, enacted laws that gave both protection and encouragement to manufacture ; and the peace which reigned generally throughout her dominions, left the inhabitants at leisure to pursue their labours with benefit to themselves, and advantage to the community at large. The extended circulation of money was another source of prosperity, and towards the close of her reign, England shone forth as a great and flourishing commercial nation.‡

From the year 1560§ to 1566, the average number of inhabitants did not exceed 2500 : from 1580

Kersey's and serges differ from broad cloth and Kerseymere, in being made of much coarser wool and having no nap upon them. *Dunford, p. 36.*

|| Risdon.

† At this period Peter Blundell, John Waldron, and others, were wealthy and eminent Clothiers in Tiverton, and entered into an extensive trade with London, Ireland, Spain, &c.

‡ The parish Registers commence with January 1559,-60. The first baptism bearing date 2. January of that year, is Richard Gover, daughter of Christopher Gover ; the first marriage ( of the same date), is Richard Satterlygh, and Katteryn Malygh ; and the first burial is William Halse, dated the 5th of the same month.

§ “ In the time of Edward 4th, the art of knitting stockings was probably unknown in any part of Europe. Their hose were made of common cloth, which may have been one of the causes of their dearth. The

F.

- A. D. to 1586 they amounted to 4150; and in the begin-  
 1556. ing of 1591 the numbers had increased to nearly  
 5000, so that the population had almost doubled it-  
 self in thirty years.

Westexe, from being small and insignificant, which Dunsford, (on the information of Samuel Wotton, an old inhabitant of the place,) says was a separate tything, and little connected with the town of Tiverton, appears at this time to have grown into a large and populous suburb, and in all probability inhabited by operatives.\* The present handsome stone bridge of five arches, (for which the inhabitants are indebted to the munificence of Walter Tyrrel, a mercer and linen draper, who was a great benefactor to

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first person that wore stockings in England is said to have been Queen Elizabeth. She received them as a present from the Spanish Ambassador; and it is probable that soon after her reign, or near the close of it, this art was introduced into England; since which time both coarse and fine woollen manufacture has received three very capital improvements, besides, probably many smaller ones. 1st.—The exchange of the rock and spindle for the spinning wheel, which, with the same quantity of labour, will perform more than double the quantity of work. 2nd.—The use of several very ingenious machines which facilitate and abridge, in a still greater proportion, the winding of worsted (so called from Worsted, now an inconsiderable village in Norfolk, where the manufacture was first set on foot,) and woollen yarn, or the proper arrangement of the warp and woof before they were put into the loom; an operation which previous to the invention of these machines, must have been extremely troublesome: 3rd.—the employment of the fulling mill for thickening the clothing instead of treading it in water. Neither wind or water mills of any kind were known in England so early as the beginning of the sixteenth century, nor, as far as I know, in any other parts of Europe north of the Alps. They had been introduced into Italy some time before." (*Smith's Wealth of Nations*, Vol. 1, p. 389.

\* Westexe was early considered quite distinct from the other parts of the town, and was possessed of its own market, which is placed by tradition where Well-brooke is situated. See Keighley, on Fiction, p. 297. note 85.

his native town,) must have been built about this time, as his donation "for and in the building and erecting, repairing and maintayneinge of the bridge in Tyverton comonly called West-Ex-bridge," (which was conveyed by will,) bears date 1568.\* Other bridges must have existed previous to this period, as we find that "Bishop Lacy, 12th May, 1448, granted an indulgence of forty days to the truly contrite who should contribute to the rebuilding of Tiverton bridge." The former structures were possibly of wood, and ill calculated to contend against the frequent floods and rapidity of the stream in the winter season.†

A. D.  
1578.

I have before remarked on the early introduction of cloth manufacture in this country, although of a coarse nature,‡ but there is no reason to conclude that the art had undergone any great improvement until the reign of Edward 3rd. The protection afforded to English commerce by his wise and salutary laws has been already shewn.§

In the 14th century Cornish wool produced a

\* It appears by Walter Tyrrel's will, that much of his property was situated in Westex.

† "In 1579, John Waldron of Twiford, gentleman, founded an alms house on the south side of Wellbrook, for eight poor men, each of them hath one shilling a week. A fine chapel adjoining for daily prayers." (*MSS. Journal.*)

It appears probable that the Earl of Devon's chapel, attached to St. Peter's church, was destroyed about this time, and not during the commonwealth. See Risdon, page 21, who completed his work in 1630.

‡ See page 15.

§ See page 23.



- A. D. lower price than in any other county in England ; a  
1578. sack of 464lbs. fetching only 4 marks, or 50s. being rather more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound, while that of Shropshire, which was the highest, sold at 14 marks, or full  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. At this period the price of Devonshire wool was 7 or 8 marks a sack, and in Somersetshire about 10.

From its earliest existence, woollen manufacture had been subject to considerable fluctuation. The wars in Spain under the Emperor Charles 5th, occasioned in the reign of Henry 8th, a great stagnation in trade, from the extensive intercourse which had existed between the two kingdoms, as well as its baneful influence over the Low Countries. After a time however, more prosperous days returned ; the loom and shuttle were again heard, and in most cases Tiverton derived the happy effects of wealthy inhabitants ; and as Camden expresses it, "the woollen trade brought to Tiverton both gain and glory."

1591. But of the uncertainty of life, and vicissitudes of human controul, it pleased God that Tiverton should afford a striking example. In 1591, the plague committed dreadful ravages in this Town, which was said to have been introduced by one William Waulker, a travelling pedlar. About 550,\* out of 5000 persons died, and hundreds fled to avoid its fatal blow ; so that as it is quaintly expressed in

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\* At the end of the parish register, 1st. book, this entry appears. "Note, dyed in the Plague, 1591, about 500 people, page 146." By reference to this page we find the burials are headed, "These same dyed of the Pestilence." The number of burials in that year is 553.

an old mss. "the grass grewe in the streetes and lanes."

A. D.

Time, however, had produced the happy effect of restoring confidence with the departure of the malady itself, and the inhabitants of Tiverton once more resumed their occupation and importance, so that it became "the chiefe market for cloth, that is in all the west parts of England." But it was the will of providence that this devoted Town should be again visited by a more distressing calamity, which destroyed the trade, and left Tiverton a heap of ruins.

1591.

On Monday April 3rd, 1598, about one o'clock in the day, when the market was at its height, a dreadful fire broke out in a poor cottage on the north side of Wellbrooke, occasioned, by a poor woman frying pancakes with straw, which by some accident igniting some litter in the room, soon set the house in a blaize. The wind blew hard at west south west, and the fire catching a neighbouring hay-house, it shortly extended to the Town mills, and the violence of the wind driving the fire across the river, in half an hour the whole formed one vast conflagration, with the exception of the Church, Castle, and a few other stone buildings. Thus, in less than two hours the raging element converted this late prosperous and busy Town into a heap of mouldering ruins. Men ran wildly about uncertain what to do, while others stood wringing their hands in utter despair, and fatal it proved to many who endeavoured to save their property. Several chapels, and 400 houses were on fire at one time; neither buckets, hooks, or

1598.

- A. D. 1598. engines were at hand, "notwithstanding it is sayd that the chiefe of the towne had often been in hand to make such provision; but never brought it to effect, for howsoever it was well motioned, it was ill remembered, the want whereof they now felt to their great sorrow and cost."\* Thus the devouring flame, assisted by the violence of the wind, extended itself with fearful rapidity, unchecked by human aid.† Property in "money, plate, merchandize, and household stuff," was destroyed; Horses were burnt in the stables and streets: 300 pair of looms were said to have been lost, and the whole was estimated at above £150,000. A few people, in hastening to escape, fell smothered by the smoke to rise no more—and 33 persons perished in the flames.‡

\* For the remainder of this curious and interesting pamphlet, see appendix, No. 3.

† It is very likely that houses were, at this period, built chiefly of wood.

‡ The following is an exact copy of the Tiverton Register.

April 3d. 1598.

"These persons whose names here following, were burn'd with the fire iij day of Aprill A. D. 1598 in the 14 yeare of our most gracious Queen Elizabeth's Majestie."

33. "Thomas Land the elder Jone, the wife of Thomas Land,* Nicholas Hartnoll the elder.† Mrs. Pearce, widow. Mary, the wief of Martyn Beere. Mary, the wief of John Ellis. Jone, the daughter of John West.	} Jone, the daughter of William Reece. Eleanor, the daugh. of Gregory Slee. Nathaniel Frost, labourer. Joan, the wife of Ralph Frost. Ellen, the wief of Vincent Kingwell. The old Alice, servant to the widow } Boubeer.
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\* "They shifting for themselves, was found arm in arm, burnt in the street." Risdon.

† "A blind man, " says Risdon," lying in his bed, was carried to the Market place for his safety, and got there burnt."

This dreadful visitation is thus mentioned in the Tiverton register. § "The town was burn'd April 3rd, 1598, and 33 persons were consumed in the fire.\* But the author of the "*Practice of Piety*" says above 50.† The noble Town was consumed in less than half an hour, except the Church, the parsonage houses, the town house, the bridewell, the alms-houses, and a few poor peoples dwellings. So sudden and fearful was the fire, driven by a strong westerly wind, that a man might have seen 400 dwelling houses all at once on fire."

A. D.  
1598.

Stowe also, with his general accuracy, in enumerating this as one of the greatest calamities

Katherine, the daugh. of John Lock.  
Katherine the weaver, widow.  
Christopher, servant to Wm. Gregg.  
Richard Dyer, servant to the widow  
Glover. }  
Mary Morrel, servant to N. Hartnoll.  
Christopher, the son of Edward Dalle.  
Joan, the wief of Edward Sterton.  
Thomas, the sonne of the widow }  
Sterton. }  
Elizabeth, the daughter of Francis }  
Perkine. }  
William, the sonne of John Ellis.

Thomas, the sonne of James Smith.  
Hugh, the sonne of James Smith.  
Elizabeth, the daugh. of John Bellamy.  
Thomas, the sonne of Phillip Tucker.  
Alice, servant to Robert Farmer.  
Joan, the daugh. of William Chilcott.  
Thomas, the sonne of the widow }  
Parker. }  
Joan, the daugh. of Elizabeth Webber.  
Hugh, the sonne of the widow Parker.  
Thomasin, the daughter of George }  
Ramster." }

"Their remains were collected and buried in the Church yard under one grave."

§ See the last leaf of the 1st. register.

\* See page 158, of the Parish register.

† See page 433, of the 14th edition.

- A. D. 1598. that befel England at that period, says, "On the 3d. Aprill, the fayre and rich towne of Twiford-towne in Devonshire was brent by casualty of fire, beginning at a poore cottage: a woman there frying pancakes with strawe (for lacke of other fewell) the same fiered the house, and so the towne about one of the clocke in the afternoone: the rage of which fire, lasting an houre and a halfe, consumed 409 houses, burned downe: one hundred and fiftie thousand pounds consumed in money, plate, merchandise, household stuffe, and houses, 50 persons, men, women, and children consumed: an almes house preserved with poore men therein, in the midst of the flames: £2000 weekly was bestowed there in y<sup>e</sup> market on Mundaies in Devonshire Karseis; 9000 people maintayned by the cloathing of that towne, in Devon, Cornwall, and Somersetshire. It was the Earle of Devonshire's chiefe seate, where yet standeth his castle or court place. Thus much of this towne, was certified to her Majesty, and was thought of many to be a just punishment of God uppon that towne for the unmercifullnesse of the riche, and small regard of the poore, which were daily seene to perish in the streetes of that towne for lacke of releife."\*

The distress occasioned by this great calamity must have exceeded description. Friends, children, and the hard earnings of industry, in a moment

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\* Stowe's annals, page 786.

were in a moment taken from them, and they wandered about the fields in a state of despair and destitution. In this emergency, their benevolent neighbours stepped forth to alleviate their wants. Ten pounds in money was immediately sent them from Exeter to relieve the poor, and as the act of the Chamber expressed it, "800 persons do want and have no lodgings but in the fields." A collection was made throughout the County of Devon, and the Queen, as soon as the intelligence reached her, "granted towards some part of their relief £5,000, to be taken out of certain shires, for the stock appointed by the last statute to be collected there; the which would be a small, though a most princely relief towards the recovery of so great a loss."\* The Judges recommended the case "to the Justices in their circuit, that some charitable benevolence might be shewed by the gentlemen every where;" and the Archbishop of Canterbury sent a circular letter to the Bishops to recommend to them and the wealthier sort of the clergy, the relieving of the bitter affliction of "these poor men of Tiverton."§

A. D.

1598.

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\* For the remainder of this paper see appendix, No. 3.

§ Strype's life of Wigt, archbishop of Canterbury, v. 40. p. 42. Oxford, Clarendon ed. 1822. see also appendix, No. 3.

Letters of this sort appear to have been common in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. There is one preserved by Ellis, dated Richmond, 29th January, 1582, from the lords of the council to the bishops, recommending a collection to be made among the clergy for the town of Geneva, which had suffered from an attack of the young duke of Savoy,

A. D.

1598.

The contributions were doubtless considerable, and the relief and encouragement so promptly given, had the happy effect of exciting energy, and inducing the inhabitants immediately to set about rebuilding their town, for which they had so many strong inducements. Its position with regard to water, and the fame it had acquired in the manufacture of kerseys, which found a better market, and sold for higher prices than those made in other places, naturally stimulated them to exertion, and influenced by these motives, they set to work with skill and energy to repair their losses, and the re-establishment of the town proceeded with great activity.

In 1590, the population of Tiverton, has been already stated at nearly 5000,\* but in ten years later it was reduced about one quarter, occasioned doubtless by the plague, and the fire of 1598. Trade however, continued to increase; and the evil policy and tyrannical conduct of Philip 2nd, of Spain, having driven hundreds of artizans from the Low Countries, to seek an asylum in England, it not only favoured Elizabeth's political views, but

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instigated, the letter says, by the Pope, and excusing her Majesty's inability to lend the Genevese money, by reason of "the chargeable warre of Ireland moved also by the Pope and his adherents." The language of the letter very much resembled that addressed to archbishop Whitgift, "to whom," they say, "we have especially recommended the case hereof within his province." vide Ellis's letters illustrative of English history, 2nd series, vol. iii. p. 83. letter ccxv.

\* See page 37.

was a source of considerable commercial advantage, to afford them every protection. Of this circumstance Tiverton derived its full share of benefit, and the town once more shone forth in all its commercial prosperity.

A. D.

In 1604, the free Grammar school was opened, an establishment founded and richly endowed by the munificence of Peter Blundell, a wealthy clothier, for the benefit of his native town, whose various and extensive charities, have rendered his name beloved and respected by high and low. A few years later, Chilcott's free English school was built in Peter Street, for the same benevolent purpose; Wm. Chilcott being a nephew of Peter Blundell, and also a clothier in Tiverton.

1604.

1611.

In 1612, "the returns of the town of Tiverton alone, were estimated at the sum of £300,000 a year; and in a brief granted by King James,\* it is set forth that "this great trade kept always in work 8000 persons, men, women, and children, and that the said town had lately been accounted the chiefest market town in all the west parts of this our realm of England." The manufacture consisted of plain cloths, and kerseys of different qualities, principally of the finest; and they were in great demand for home consumption, and eagerly sought after by London merchants for exportation.

1612.

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\* See appendix, 4.



A. D.

1612.

Tiverton was in this prosperous and thriving state, when another fatal evil befel it in a second fire which again reduced the town to ashes ; and as it had become more extensive both in buildings and population than in 1698, the fire was consequently more destructive.

It commenced on Wednesday 5th August, where the Angel Inn now stands, at that time occupied by a Mr. Patey, whose servant was engaged in dyeing wool, when a boy coming into the dye-house, set two dogs fighting, which the servant regarding with more interest than his master's business, he neglected the furnaces, by which means the fire caught a large body of fuel composed of wood and furze which was in the room, and the whole was soon in a blaze, and so violent were the flames that they could not be controuled. Thus the fire extended over the whole town, and the houses being generally of thatch and very dry, it burnt with considerable fury. The dreadful experience of 14 years previous, would have operated, one would imagine, as an inducement to provide the power of affording assistance in time of need ; but the evil past was no longer a source of apprehension, and neither fire engine or means of any kind was at hand to check the fury of the flames. No system was organized, and all appeared filled with the utmost consternation ; and the fire, thus uncontrouled, suspended its rage only with the destruction of the whole town, with the exception of St. Peter's Church, the Castle, School houses,

Alms-houses, and about 30 poor habitations. The parish register has conveyed this melancholy tale to past and future generations in the following words ;—" On the 5th of August 1612, the whole town was again fired and consumed, except the Church, one parsonage house, the school houses, the alms-houses, and about 30 houses of the poor people. They are blind who see not in this the finger of God, wherefore *fear God's threatenings*, Jer. c. 17. v. 27. *and believe God's prophets, if ye will prosper*, 2 Chro. c. 20. v. 20."

A. D.

1612.

The Assize week, which happened to be at that time, had drawn "most of the Freeholders of our said town of Tiverton" to Exeter, in attendance on their duty there, by which means, unfortunately, many influential persons were absent who were best calculated to render assistance. Thus was this devoted town again overwhelmed with misery, and all ranks were reduced to the greatest distress. Goods and merchandize to the amount of £200,000, and upwards of six hundred houses were consumed,\* besides almost the whole of the machinery, and implements of trade in the town.†

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\* The fire lasted, it appears, a day and night, and yet no aid was brought.

† In 1612, previous to the fire, the first year after poor Laws were introduced, the whole expenditure of the parish of Tiverton for the maintenance of the poor, was not more than 48s. per week, or £120, per annum. In 1656, it was rather upwards of £300; in 1699, £410. 11s. 5½d.; for the year ending at Easter 1783, £2184. 10s. 0d. in 1832, the highest amount of poor rate recorded in the parish of Tiverton, was £6976. 7s. 8d.; and in 1842, £5820. 8s. 2½d. (see

A. D.

1612.

The existence of distress, is ever, in England, a prelude for benevolent exertion, and we are told that great activity was used in the parish, and the inhabitants "were relieved with the sum of £100 in money," which was collected in the city of Exeter. A brief was granted by King James, (before alluded to†) ordering a general collection to be made throughout the western parts of the kingdom, on the appeal of the earl of Bath, lord lieutenant of the county, and most of the principal nobility, clergy, and magistrates. This brief after commenting on the state of the trade, and town of Tiverton, and extent of the destruction, remarks on the judicious arrangement of the magistrates "in placing and disposing of 300 poor people throughout the shire," a circumstance that doubtless carried the art of woollen manufacture into many small towns and villages in Devonshire.

A calamity so great, and the second in so short a period, seemed almost sufficient to paralyze human exertion; but God, who thought fit to cause such an evil, in his mercy sent support to the suffering poor, and stimulated the wealthy to exertion; so that we find the same reasons which induced the inhabitants to rebuild the town after the former fire,

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appendix No. 26,)—shewing a diminution of £1085. 19s. 5½d., by the operations of the new poor Law act, and an increase in the population, during that period, of £275.

‡ For the remainder of the brief, see appendix No. 2. Also, a curious account of this fire, called the "Lamentable burning of Tiverton," published in London, 1612.

operated as strongly at this time also. The contributions were many and valuable, encouraged as they were by the King's brief, and ably supported by the principal nobility and gentry throughout the kingdom. The wealthy inhabitants of the county of Devon were active and liberal assistants, towards the restoration of a town that had contributed so largely towards the manufacture of the county.

A. D.

1612.

We have no certain means of ascertaining the amount of assistance rendered on this occasion, but it was doubtless considerable, as we find in 1614, the town had derived sufficient importance to enter into an agreement at the quarter Sessions held at Exeter, "to \*repair and mend the following bridges (whereby they were exempted from the same relating to the County bridges,) viz.—

1614.

## HORSE BRIDGES.

Lowman bridge, near Mr. Blundell's Free school.

Half of Cove bridge.

## FOOT BRIDGES.

Bickleigh bridge.

Lower Lowman bridge, at the end of St. Andrew's street.

Willbrooke bridge, which no longer exists, the stream having been turned.

Half of Langley bridge.

Half of Worthy bridge, both situated over the dart, on the south west of the park ; besides other

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\* Blundell's memoirs.

A. D. small bridges within the parish of Tiverton, and the exemption from county rates, has continued to the present day.

1615. In 1615, II. James 1st, a charter of incorporation was granted to the inhabitants of Tiverton, to consist of a Mayor, twelve capital, and twelve assistant burgesses, a recorder and town clerk. Mr. Richard Hill, alias Spurway, an eminent Clothier, was nominated the first Mayor; Humphry Were, Esq. the first Recorder; and Henry Newte, the elder, gentleman, to be the first Town clerk, and his son Henry to succeed him.\*

It provided the usual power of holding Sessions, and directed that a new Mayor should be annually elected the Tuesday next after the feast of Saint Bartholomew, out of their own body, and the privilege of holding two Fairs annually, on the second Tuesday after Trinity Sunday, and on Michaelmas day.

This charter also granted to the mayor and corporation, the power of sending two Burgesses to parliament.

The newly appointed magistrates held their first Court for the administration of justice, within the liberty, (which comprehends the whole parish,) in 1615, soon after the charter was granted; and the different privileges respecting fairs, markets &c.

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\* See this charter at length in the appendix, No. 5.

came into operation at the same period.\*

A. D.

1615.

In the course of three years, it appears, the Town was again rebuilt, and trade became once more in a flourishing condition. Every encouragement that the rich and benevolent could give, was extended to the poorer artizans; for from 1613, to 1620, no less than 13 benefactions were made, either for the purpose of securing permanent advantage to the poor, or by means of lending money to the less prosperous tradesman, without interest, to encourage industry, with a view of its being returned in a stated period, and the same privilege extended to others.†

Among these benefactors we find Mr. George Slee, a wealthy merchant of Tiverton, who erected some Alms houses in Peter street, for the benefit of six aged women in 1613; — Sir John Acland,‡ Knight, of Culm John, in this county, who by Will, dated 1619, left to twelve poor people for ever, a weekly distribution of bread,—and Custom wood,

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\* This year also the Town hall was built, on the site of St. Thomas's chapel. (*Lyson.*)

† Almost the whole of these are lost, and supposed to have been either paid off at the time, or disposed of during the troubles which ensued.

§ In 1616, Tiverton sent its first members to parliament, and the statement made by Dunsford, on the authority of Hewett's mss. of burgesses having been elected by the votes of the potwallopers, in 1603, and 1687, has, after strict search, been found quite incorrect.

‡ This excellent man extended his charities to a great many parishes

- A. D. on the Cove road, which was given by an unknown  
 1615. hand about 1620, a grant that, from circumstances, has almost ceased to be a benefit to the poor.\*

1617. If any judgement may be formed of the extent and progress of the population of Tiverton from the number of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, as contained in the parish Register, it would appear that the population in 60 years, from 1560 to 1617, had nearly trebled itself;† for at the former period, the number of inhabitants did not much exceed 2000, and in the latter year, it had extended to nearly 6000.

The principal increase would numerically appear to be from 1560 to 1590; as there were 397 baptisms,—124 marriages,—and 280 burials. From 1560, to 65; while from 1585 to 90, the numbers were 625 baptisms, 162 marriages, and 603 burials; and from 1613 to 17, the baptisms amounted to 882, marriages 203, and burials 655.

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in Devonshire in the same way. In Pilton church, near Barnstaple, is the following memorial :—

“ Here Sir John Acland to the poor’s a friend,  
 In giving bread no time’s to put an end;  
 Six-pence a week by him to us is measured,  
 A crowne for him in Heaven’s laid up and treasured.”

He also built the Chapel at Culm John, which has been recently (1842) replaced by the beautiful and chaste building at Killerton, which was erected by the present estimable possessor, chiefly at his own expense.

\* See page 22.

† See Public Charities, part 3.

In drawing an accurate conclusion, however, it is necessary to consider the effect of the plague which occurred in 1591; and of the fire of 1598, (which together produced a reduction of a quarter of the population,) and a similar calamity in 1612. Allowing for these distressing visitations, there appears on the average, a rapid increase throughout the whole of this period of 60 years; and the natural inference to be drawn from it is a proportionate advance in trade.

A. D.

1617.

1620.

Having thus shewn that, notwithstanding the calamities to which, by God's will, Tiverton had been exposed, and the competition opened in the woollen trade, by a settlement of full 300 Artizans in different parts of the county, after 1612, it still strove to preserve its ascendancy among the towns of Devon. At this period, and before, the manufacture of kersies were on the decline, for which were substituted "white serges, called long ells, cloth druggets, and duroys, of divers qualities and dimensions,"\* Tiverton remaining one of the principal markets for these commodities, sending them partly to Exeter in an undressed state, while a considerable traffic was carried on with London, or by direct exportation with Spain, Portugal and Germany. It should be observed, that at this period, there were some wealthy merchants residing at Bolham, where several manufactories, and fulling mills were established, besides their

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\* Chappel.



- A. D. existence in other parts of the neighbourhood ;  
the whole of which tended to preserve an active  
employment, notwithstanding the temporary checks  
the trade of Tiverton had sustained.

1625.

In 1625, the population had exceeded 7000 ; a  
year rendered remarkable for the occurrence of a  
very disastrous flood, which happened on the 13th  
1626. of October, causing the destruction of fifty-three  
houses.\* In 1626, the plague having raged violently  
in Exeter for more than twelve months,† the  
Assizes for the county were held in Blundell's school  
in this town, on which occasion, one Commins of  
Chevithorne, for sheep-stealing, and a Dutchman,  
for robbery, were sentenced to death, and after-  
wards executed upon White-down,‡ about two miles  
from Tiverton, on the road to Cullompton. The  
Judge's names on this occasion, appears to have  
been Denham ; and Nicholas Fry, Esq. was High  
Sheriff.

The state of trade at the close of James's reign,  
and the catalogue of manufacture for which England

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\* This is mentioned on the authority of Dunsford, who gained his information from a MS. diary of one farmer Robert Roberts, who lived at North Combe, in the parish of Stockley Pomeroy.

† Isaac says, "the plague here entered in the month of July, and continued very hot for one years space, sweeping away many families. No beggars were allowed in the open streets, but were instantly sent to the House of Correction, to get their bread by the sweat of their brow, idleness being the root of all evil, it being no less true than a witty saying, that the Devil tempts all men but the idle man, who tempts the Devil, the idle man's brain being a shop for the Devil to work in." p. 150.

‡ See the Lady Amicia, widow of Baldwin Rivers. book 2.

A. D.

1626.

was then eminent, would present but an imperfect figure, when compared with the list exhibited at the present day. Nine tenths of the commerce of the kingdom consisted in woollen goods; and British legislature was directed chiefly towards the encouragement of that manufacture. The 19th of this reign the export of British wool was prohibited by proclamation, under an impression that British produce, exceeded in value the finest wool of other countries; "and although" says Hume, "that edict was never strictly enforced," it remained in force for a considerable period. At this time the trade with Spain was prosecuted with considerable vigour, and several rich merchants in Tiverton had extensively embarked in that traffic.\* From the reign of James the 1st, to 1641 or 2, the trade and population of Tiverton appears to have been more extensive than at a later period; and Mc'Culloch in his *Statistics of the British Empire*, states, that "in 1614, an improvement took place in the woollen manufacture of the west of England, by the invention of what is called medley, or mixed cloth: for which Gloucestershire is still celebrated." We find that this style of manufacture existed here also, as Mr. Robert Reade, a clothier of Tiverton, by Will dated 1621, directed that the fifteen weavers, and five tuckers, which were to benefit by his legacy of £100, should be selected, not from among "white

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\* The following is copied from Hewett's ms. "1630. "John Francis, of Chevithorne, Esq. he was the first person that did keep a Coache in this parish of Tiverton."

A. D. 1626. weavers, nor tuckers that make white kersies, but my will and meaning is, that they be such as weave and tuck upon coloured mixed kerseys, for the Love of God."

We now, however, approach a period, fraught with serious evil to trade, as well as to the prosperity of England. The woollen trade declined rapidly, and the protecting laws, particularly those of preventing the import of Foreign wool, which led to its being run (smuggled) in large quantities, were doomed to have a baneful influence on British manufacture.\*

### The state of England on the death of James

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\* This year the Corporation formed a set of bye Laws, for the government of the town, which received the consent of Sir John Walter, knight, Lord chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Sir John Denham, one of the Barons of the same court, together with the Justices of the assizes in the County of Devon, according to the statute. They are thirty in number—(see appendix, No. 24,) and the 5th provided, "that no inhabitant shall harbour inmates, &c. under penalty of 10s. a month, to be secured by distress." 6th.—"That if any non-inhabitant or resident shall erect a cottage, without consent of the mayor and burgesses, shall forfeit £5., and 20s. for every month's continuance thereof." 7th.—"If any inhabitant shall take to nurse any bastard child, without giving good security to indemnify the parish, shall forfeit 40s. for every month." 14th.—"No inhabitant to permit his hogs or pigs to wander the streets under the penalty of 3d. a time for each." The 15th and 16th rule, were provisions for the security of the Town Lake. 18th.—"Every capital burgess and assistant, that shall not be uncovered at their solemn and public meetings, or otherwise behaving themselves unbecoming, shall forfeit 12d." Although the 5th and 6th laws, as given above, appear rather arbitrary, yet they were justified by the charter, in providing themselves with such a power, and much of the remaining ones, if properly enforced, ought to have had a most salutary effect. When the new charter was granted, 1724, these bye-laws became null and void, and it will be seen that in 1767, some new ones were enacted.

A. D.

the First, involved, as it was in war with Spain ; with an exhausted Treasury, and a succession of injudicious proceedings, augured but badly for the opening of Charles's reign ; and that which commenced in disorder, terminated in open rebellion, and the unjustifiable execution of the King himself. Much error is but too evident in Charles's conduct in many points, among others, in persisting in so long a stay in Scotland, contrary to the often urged advice of his able minister, Sir Edward Nicholas. Speeches were made in parliament of a nature well calculated to inflame the public mind.\* In 1637, the Scotch not only refused to adopt the liturgy, as directed by the King, but they summoned a general council, abrogated the government orders, and set at naught the King's authority. A shallow peace however, was established in Scotland, which had

1641.

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\* In a letter from Sir E. Nicholas, to Charles the First, dated 6th November, 1641—in which he says, “your Majestie's long absence encourages some to talke in parliament of highe matters. It was yesterday in debate in the Commons house, that your parliament may have the approval of all Officers, Councillors, and Ambassadors, and your Majestie the nomination.” A most extraordinary speech was made on this occasion by Master Smith, of the Inner Temple. In one part he observes ; “Prerogative and liberty are both necessary to this kingdom ; and like the sun and moon give a lustre to this benighted nation, so long as they walk at equal distances ; but when one of them shall venutre into the others orb, like those planets in conjunction, they there cause a deeper eclipse.” He concludes a string of uncouth metaphors, by assuring the House that it was necessary “so to provide that the movements of the times may not like great Jacks in a pool, devour their inferiors, and make poverty a pavement for themselves to trample on.” (Evelyn's memoirs, v. 2.)

In another letter dated November 6th, 1641. — “I write this, that your Majestic may see how extremely necessary it is for you to hasten hither.” (Evelyn's memoirs.)

A. D. 1641. been barely concluded, when an insurrection broke out in Ireland. The aid so requisite in such an emergency, was not supported by parliament, and an entire want of co-operation between the King and his council was but too apparent. Thus, a chain of concurring circumstances, left England ripened for destruction.

Amid evils so great, and the check necessarily given to trade during any period of unsettled government, which at this time amounted to a suspension of all internal legislation, must have operated materially on the commerce of Tiverton. And although there is reason to believe the population continued to increase, being at this time nearly 8000, yet it must have fallen far short of the rapid advance of former years. One benefit alone appears to have secured to Tiverton a partial continuance of its trade, which was the existence of a direct traffic, carried on by many of the principal merchants, with foreign states.

1642. Although each party may be blamed for having proceeded to the extent they did, the balance of power, apparent between the King and his opponents, naturally led the people to divide their choice, and each party became animated by the most violent animosity. The strength of the parliamentary power lay chiefly in the support of the middle and lower orders ; and as the larger portion of population in Tiverton, consisted in the manufacturing classes, it appears but reasonable to say, and the

observation is borne out by concurrent testimony, that the parliamentary faction received the largest share of support there.\*

A. D.

1642.

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\* The state of blind and misguided zeal which existed at this time, even in the ranks of Parliament, is well drawn by the following, extracted from Vicars's parliamentary chr. part 1. After describing the destruction of Paul's cross at Cheapside, and the "solemn obsequies of the Romish idol," Vicars mentions the pious purging of Westminster Abbey, "where," he says, "they have zealously pulled down many crosses and popish images; yea, and the gaudie and superstitious organs there also, and so have quite spoiled the sport, and marr'd the mirth and musick of all those lazie lubbers and mimick choristers of that cage of such unclean birds." "And for the better clearing of the truths aforesaid," he proceeds, "and the fairer manifestation of the zeal and pietie of our most excellent *Esra's*, and most zealous *Zorobabels* of our *English-Israel* in parliament, I have thought fit here to insert the order of parliament published in print by authority of both houses for the readers better content and satisfaction therein.

Die Mercurii, Maii, 10. 1643.

By virtue of an order of the House of Commons, and agreeable to a bill passed by both Houses of Parliament, for suppressing of divers innovations in Churches and Chappels, this Committee doth require you, and every of you, to take away and demolish every Altar or Table of stone within your Church or Chappell, and to remove the Communion Table from the East end of the said Church or Chappell, and to place the same in some other convenient place of the body of the said Church or Chappell. And to remove and take away all Tapers, Candlesticks, and Basons from the Communion Table in the said Church or Chappell: And to take away and demolish all Crucifixes, Crosses, and all images and Pictures of any or more persons of the Trinity, or of the Virgin Mary, in your said Church or Chappell. And this Committee doth further require you to demolish all Crucifixes, crosses, images, or pictures, of any one or more persons of the Trinitie, or of the Virgin Mary, upon the outside of your said Church or Chappell, or in any open place within your Parish, whereof you are to give an account to this Committee before the 20 day of this present Moneth.

To the Church - Wardens of the Parish - Church,  
Chappell of &c—; And to every of them."

*Vicars, Parl. Chr. part 1. p. 328 - 9.*

From this circular sent throughout the kingdom, we may gather what would be the sacrilegious havoc made by the fanatics on all the monuments of ancient taste, and ancient piety.

A. D.            In the month of August, a party of King's  
1643.            dragoons entered the town, led by Sir Allen Apsley,†  
                  and Major Buckingham,‡ with the desire of gaining  
                  possession of it, when they surprised a Republican  
                  Regiment, under the command of Colonel Weare ;  
                  but being assailed with stones and other missiles,  
                  by the mob, who shewed every disposition to oppose  
                  their entrance, the soldiers fired, by which many  
                  of the rabble were either slain or wounded, and the  
                  effect produced was a dispersion of the remainder,  
                  when one John Lock, a miller, was taken and exe-  
                  cuted, at the sign of the White Horse, on the north  
                  side of Gold street. After which the town was  
                  plundered.\*

From this time the King's troops appear to have kept possession of Tiverton, until the 19th October, 1645, guarding it by a garrison of full 200 men. The civil government was superseded by the military, and the town was placed under the control of Colonel Connocke, a cruel and oppressive

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† A brother of Mrs. Lucy Hutchinson, wife of Colonel Hely Hutchinson, whose memoirs are well known, and Colonel of a Regiment of Parliamentary Cavalry.—Sir Allen was governor of Barnstaple, at the period of its surrender.

‡ This was a detachment of Kings troops from what was called the Cornish army, under Sir Ralph Hopton, who after the battle of Stratton, left some small garrison near Exeter, and a detachment advanced to Tiverton. (*Lyson.*)

\* "After the battle of Stratton, in May 1643, the victorious royalists, in their march from Cornwall, dispossessed Colonel Weare, who then held Tiverton for the Parliament." (*Lyson's Devon.* p. 509.) Colonel Weare, would be better known as John Were Esq. of Halberton, who died in 1658.

man, of whom more hereafter.\*

A. D.

1644.

The reverses experienced by the King at the battle of Brandon - heath, near Alesford, which was fought 29th March, decided the Queen, who was near her confinement, on quitting Oxford, and proceeding, by easy stages, to Exeter, where she arrived in April following, and took up her abode at Bedford House, Her daughter Henrietta, afterwards Dutchess of Orleans, was born in June, and in July the earl of Essex with the parliament army arriving in that neighbourhood, the Queen removed to Cornwall, and thence proceeded to France.

In September, the King, who had been in the west about eight months, projected a return to Oxford; but well knowing that Waller was ready to leave London, and Middleton had retired from the neighbourhood of Tiverton to join him, "he marched himself from Plymouth, accompanied by his own troop, to Exeter, appointing the army, by slow marches to follow, and to be quartered at Tiverton, and other towns adjacent†;" where they arrived on the 21st of the same month.‡

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\* A letter addressed by Cromwell, (who at that time commanded a troop of Horse under the earl of Manchester, general of the parliamentary forces of the north,) to Oliver St. John, Esq. a member of the house of Westminster, makes it appear how much at that time, (1643,) he stood in need of money for the payment of his troop. A fac-simile of this interesting document will be found in the appendix, No. 6, the original of which is in the British museum.

† Clarendon, II. 4. p. 539.

‡ The following extracts from Sir Edward Walker's historical  
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A. D.

1644.

In October following, the town, and particularly Westexe, was visited by another fatal disorder, called the Sweating sickness, of which more than 450 persons died ; 250 of that number were buried in the months of August, September, October, and November, and 105 in October only.\* From this and other causes, Tiverton became almost entirely deserted.

1645.

Owing to the dissatisfaction which had long existed among some of the leaders of the King's army, and the intrigues of Lord Goring to gain the command of the west† from Lord Hopton, added to the discontent expressed by the commis-

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discourses, relate to the same circumstances. 1644.—Tuesday September 3rd. "In the interim Sir John Berkley, was with a good force from Exeter, advanced as far as Chagford to intercept their passage : but they having notice of his being there, avoided him : so as they were gone out of Devonshire before General Goring and he were joined, which was not until Friday following at Tiverton. General Goring (in obedience to his orders, which were not to follow Essex's horse too near Middleton's fresh horse,) followed them to Hatherley, Middleton being then within eight miles of Torrington ; yet Sir John Berkley's horse had the next day an encounter with a part of those horse at Tiverton, and forced them thence disorderly." p. 81. General Lord Goring halted at Tiverton to refresh his horse.

"September 16th. "Thence (i. e. from Tavistock,) on Munday the 16th, His Majesty marched with his army to Oakehampton, and himself with his troop, and the principal Officers of his court, went next day to Excester ; leaving the Army to come by easie marches to Crediton, Bradninch, Cul-lumpton, and so to Tiverton, where they were on Saturday the 21st."

\* See parish register, A. D. 1644.

† See Clarendon, v. 4. p. 641, et seq.

sioners\* at the misconduct of Sir Richard Greenvil,† who had received the supplies, without either providing the troops in arms, ammunition, provisions, or clothes, as well as other neglects, much delay and inconvenience was created; and it appears that the garrisons of Dartmouth, Barnstaple, and Tiverton, were badly victualled, and deficient in the supply of arms and ammunition.†

A. D.

1645.

Early in January, Sir Thomas Fairfax was appointed general of the parliamentary army, voided by the resignation of the earl of Essex.§

In April, the prince of Wales (afterwards Charles the second,) summoned commissioners from the four western counties, to meet him on the

\* See Clarendon, part 4. p. 643.

The Commissioners appointed for the County of Devon, were—

Sir Peter Prideaux,

Sir George Chudleigh,

Sir John Pole,

Sir John Northcote,

Sir Edward Powell,

Sir Samuel Rolle,

Sir Shilston Calmady,

Sir Nicholas Martin,

Sir Francis Drake,

Sir John Davie, Bart.

Robert Savery, Henry Walrond, John Worth, Hugh Fortesque, Arthur Upton, and George Trowbridge, Esqrs.; and for the city of Exeter, Christopher Clark, Esq., Mayor; Richard Saunders, Thomas Crossing, Adam Bennett, Walter White, John Halsewill, Esqrs., Aldermen; and James Gould, Esq., Sheriff.

† For an account of his character, &c., see Clarendon, v. 4. p. 534. et seq.

† It is evident, throughout the whole accounts of this period, that Tiverton was considered by the King's party, as a place of considerable importance to the royal cause, as it formed one of four garrisons in Devonshire; the others being Exeter, Barnstaple, and Dartmouth. Plymouth was in the power of the parliament.

§ See Hume's history of England, v. 7. p. 28.

A. D. 1645. 23rd of the month at Bridgwater, to consult on the best mode of preserving the west. Here it was agreed that "those counties, according to their several known proportions, would, in a very short time, (as I remember a month was the utmost,) raise and arm 6000 foot, besides the Prince's guards, which would be full 2000 more."\*

"The whole contribution of the county of Devon amounted to £2000 weekly; whereof so many hundreds were assigned by the commissioners for the maintenance of the forces before Plymouth, as amounted to the just proportion and establishment proposed by Sir Richard Greenvil himself; and then so many to the garrisons of Exeter, Dartmouth, Barnstaple, and Tiverton, as amounted to the payment of such forces, as, on all hands, were agreed to be absolutely necessary for their defence, at the lowest establishment."

The prince of Wales afterwards proceeded to Barnstaple, and thence sent Sir John Berkley, Sir Hugh Pollard, and Colonel Ashburnham, to meet Lord Goring at Tiverton, "to confer with him, to know what he desired," in consequence of his strong and repeated expressions of discontent.†

In the commencement of August, the Prince directed that a portion of the garrisons from Dart-

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\* Clarendon, v. 4. p. 639.

† Clarendon, v. 4. p. 648, and 663.

A. D.

1645.

mouth, Exeter, and Barnstaple, should assemble at Tiverton, to receive orders from Sir Richard Greenvil. "Those from Exeter, according to order, appeared at the time; and those from Barnstaple and Dartmouth, marched a days journey or more towards Tiverton, but hearing that Lord Goring was risen from Taunton, made a halt." "Sir Richard Greenvil took occasion, from the soldiers not meeting him at the day appointed at Tiverton, to exclaim against the Prince and his commissioners."\*

A council of war was held by the Prince at Exeter, the end of August, at which it was unanimously agreed, "that the foot should presently advance to Tiverton, and the horse to the east of Exeter; and that as soon as Sir Richard Greenvil could come with his men, they should all advance to the relief of Bristol;" but, about the middle of September, the Prince being still at Exeter, the news arrived of the fatal loss of that important place; "which, as all failures at that time did, cast a gloom over the army, and damped all the former vigour and activity of a march." The first formed resolution, however, was still acted on, that of drawing the troops to Tiverton, and "at least, defending those passes, and keeping the enemy from invading Devon."†

The object appeared to be "that if the enemy

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\* Clarendon, v. 4. p. 672.

† Clarendon, v. 4. p. 688, and 690.

A. D.  
1645.

gave time, the force of both counties, ( Devon and Cornwall ) save what was necessary to be continued at Plymouth, should be drawn to Tiverton, and upon that pass to fight with the rebels."\* The scheme did not succeed, as Lord Goring retreated before Fairfax.

We have before spoken of Colonel Connocke,† late governor of Tiverton, who on Monday 13th October, joined Fairfax at Axminster, "but the general understood of his cruel conduct to the country whilst he was governor of that place, in torturing people, and burning them with matches, and otherwise cruelly using both men and women, (in such manner as is not fit to be mentioned,) he was required to depart the quarter of the parliament, or to be proceeded against as a spy."† The same night Lord Goring advanced from Poltimore, and passing through Honiton about twelve o'clock at night, he reached Black-down, "and knowing the country well, by an obscure and unusual way, he passed our out-guards, and took 40 foot, and 20 dragoons prisoners, and was gone before the alarm was received." At this time,

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\* Clarendon, v. 4. p. 698.

† See page 38.

† Spragge's *Anglia Rediviva*, c. 3. part 3. His real name was Nathaniel Fiennes, son of Lord Say, Colonel in the parliamentary army, and governor of Bristol, at the time of its surrender to the Royalists in 1643—on which occasion he was accused of cowardice, and being tried by a court martial, was found guilty and condemned to lose his head; but the sentence was remitted. (Hume, v. 6, p. 523,)

Colonel Amias Pollard was governor of Tiverton Castle, but on the march of General Fairfax into the west, he abandoned the command, and Sir Gilbert Talbot was appointed in his place.

A. D.  
1645.

On Tuesday the 14th of October, Fairfax marched from Chard to Honiton by way of Axminster; and on Wednesday the 15th, he advanced from Honiton to Cullompton, where the Lord Miller was, with 300 dragoons, and some infantry, who upon our approach, quitted the barricades and the town. "Strong parties pursued them, and took some prisoners," who confessed their troops had retired in the direction of Tiverton. A council of war was called that night, and Major General Massey was directed to advance with his horse, and the brigade of foot under the command of Colonel Weldon, to possess the town of Tiverton, and besiege the Castle, which he did accordingly.\*

Thursday 16th, Fairfax marched to Bradninch, and returned to Cullompton; and Friday 17th, after holding a council of war, it was decided to "take in Tiverton in regard it lay upon a passe, and might much annoy the army to leave it behind them unreduced, or at least unblocked up;" and if once taken it might be a magazine, and place of strength and convenience, either as a deposit

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\* It would appear from a comparison of Sir Gilbert Talbot's narrative with the above extract, that General Massey having received his orders, marched upon Tiverton on Wednesday, and on the following day, or on Friday morning, made the unsuccessful assault on the Castle to which Sir Gilbert alludes. Fairfax arrived on the Friday morning.

A. D.

1645.

for stores, or to retreat on should occasion require it. About noon, therefore, Fairfax advanced towards the town, leaving some horse and foot at Bradninch, Silverton, and Culm John, four miles from Exeter; his object being to force the King's troops across the Exe, which he succeeded in doing.\*

It appears to have been the policy of Fairfax to compel Goring to keep on the other side of the Exe, as that river would act as a natural barrier against him, and prevent his breaking through the parliamentary lines, and by marching eastward, either join the King, or annoy Fairfax in the rear of his army; a manœuvre he (Goring) had more than once nearly accomplished, and "one which we see by his success on the 13th October, was peculiarly fitted to his daring gallantry."†

The force now collected at Tiverton and its immediate neighbourhood under Sir Thomas Fairfax, amounted to about 6000 men, and doubtless con-

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\* Lyson, in page 509 states, that the earl of Essex was for some time at Tiverton with his army, in 1644, and refers to Vicars's parliamentary chronicle.—This is, however, an error, as Vicars states Essex to have been at almost every other place, but never at Tiverton, neither, judging from subsequent events, would it be probable.

† In many points of his character, Goring, though far superior in wit and intellect, reminds the reader of Murat.—Both were eminently graceful in person, and winning in address; polished in manners, and accomplished, but ambitious. Careless in the extreme, yet both possessed of the same high and exuberant courage in the field of battle. But Goring was stained with vices which more than counterbalanced all his sparkling wit, and undaunted valour, the vices of cruelty, profligacy, and dissimulation.

sisted of nearly the same troops which were before Taunton in July previous. This force was composed of the following regiments. Colonel Weldon's brigade of infantry comprised his own regiment, that of Colonel Fortescue's, Colonel Floyd's, (who was killed before Taunton in June,) and Colonel Henry Ingoldsbury's, a kinsman of the protector. These were joined by six companies of foot, being a part of the Chichester garrison, and about the same number from Lyme, the whole amounting to four or five thousand men, besides a body of horse of 1800 or 2000, consisting of the regiments of Colonels Graves, Cook, and Fitzjames, and the Plymouth regiment.

A. D.  
1645.

On Saturday, October 18th, much of the time was occupied in erecting batteries against the Church and Castle of Tiverton, which, on the arrival of General Fairfax, he found Lt. General Massey had commenced. The two commanders frequently during the day, visited the works as they proceeded, giving directions respecting the approaches and batteries. During the afternoon a spy was let down from the Castle by means of a rope, but being discovered by the guards, he threw the letter of which he was the bearer, by the water side. Being threatened with instant vengeance, he discovered where it was, and on perusal it was found to be a communication from Sir Gilbert Talbot,\* the governor of

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\* In August, 1665, we find Sir Gilbert Talbot in the capacity of British envoy at the court of Denmark, and he effected "an offensive



A. D.  
1645.

the castle, to Sir John Berkley, the governor of Exeter, declaring his intention of holding out to the last, but begging to have relief sent him. On Sunday, October 18th, the general was early in the batteries, which being armed, and prepared for action, a council of war was called, wherein it was agreed to storm the Church, Castle, and Works; but while they were debating on the mode of attack, (which was that afternoon to be carried into effect,) the batteries having previously opened on the Castle, a chance shot broke the chain of the draw-bridge in two, whereon the bridge fell,\* and the enemy taking instant advantage of so singular a chance, wisely occupied the entrance without waiting for orders, and entered the works, possessing themselves of the Church and Churchyard, and creating

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alliance with the King against the States; and at the same time, the Danish resident at the Hague, by his Majesty's orders, concluded an offensive alliance against England." *Hume. v. 7. p. 406.*

"He was subsequently the King's jeweller, *i. e.* keeper of the jewel office, a great cheat at bowls and cards, and not born to a shilling." "Flagillum Parliamentarium," being sarcastic notices "of nearly 200 members of the first parliament after the restoration."

He was appointed to this office at the instance of Chancellor Hyde, on the attainder of Sir Henry Mildmay, soon after the restoration.

During his occupation of this office, in consequence, it is stated, of a great reduction of the income and perquisites of it, the Regalia was opened for public exhibition. Sir Gilbert Talbot confided the care of this public liberty to an old and faithful servant named Talbot Edwards, whose name is transmitted to us as being the person so deeply concerned in the plot, when Colonel Blood, in 1671, (a violent and unprincipled parliamentary officer, and native of Ireland,) attempted to carry off the Regalia, in which it became necessary to remove Edwards, who was nearly murdered in this desperate attempt.

\* This occurred Sunday, October 19th; about noon.

a serious panic among the garrison, who fled from their guns, and generally left the lines undefended. Some of the soldiers took refuge in the Church, where they fastened the doors; but the invaders getting through the windows, they were all made prisoners, most of whom were plundered of every thing but their shirts, but in obedience to the directions of General Fairfax, their lives were spared. The governor, who had previously refused acceding to any terms of surrender, shut himself in his chamber, exhibiting from his window a flag of truce. That, however, was disregarded, and some soldiers forcing an entrance, he was made prisoner.

A. D.  
1645.

Much plunder was found in the Castle, consisting of provisions, 4 pieces of ordnance, 30 barrels of gunpowder, and 500 stand of arms, with ammunition and stores. The prisoners taken consisted of Sir Gilbert Talbot, the governor, 4 majors, 20 other officers and gentlemen of note, and about 200 soldiers.\*

It is probable that many of the garrison may have escaped by a covered way, which is said to have led from the Castle, many feet under ground, to the Red Lion, a public house, then existing in

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\* "John Salter, aged 87, then living in Tiverton, informed Mr. Dunsford, in 1790, that his grandfather very well remembered the siege of the Castle; that after the siege, the Churchyard was strewed over with bags of wool which had been used to prevent the shot from injuring the Church. They lay there for some time, but as no one claimed them, his grandfather gave a man 6d. to drag one of the packs to his own house; a plan that was afterwards followed by others.

A. D. 1645. the centre of Fore street, being of sufficient extent to admit of two persons walking abreast. The entrance to this passage, for a short distance, is still open.

A remarkable circumstance occurred during the early part of the siege. Mrs. Cunick, Sir Gilbert Talbot's nurse, was holding his child in her arms, in the round tower of the Castle, when a cannon shot killed her, but left the child unhurt.

Among the prisoners thus taken was a Major Sadler, who had formerly served in the parliamentary army. He had privately made many overtures to them, of the valuable information he could give, if they would grant him pardon for his desertion, and permit him to return; but his offers were rejected, "and he falling into our hands, was called to a council of war, and condemned to suffer death for his former treachery; who to save his life, broke prison, and escaped to Exeter, where he was, (by his own side) called to a council of war, for endeavouring to betray their cause, after he had undertaken it, and so therefore adjudged to die, *a notable instance of a righteous hand upon a false man.*"\* To the treachery of this person, Sir Gilbert Talbot attributes the loss of the Castle.

The House of Commons, on the receipt of the intelligence of the fall of Tiverton, passed the following resolutions.

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\* Spragge's England's discovery, p. 143. see also appendix, No. 7. Major Sadler was executed at Exeter,

A. D.

1645.

“A letter from Mr. Rushworth, from Tiverton, of the 19th of October 1645, concerning the taking of that garrison with the Castle there, with the ordnance, ammunition, commanders, and soldiers there by storm, was this day read.

“Ordered, that on the next Lord’s day, whereon thanks are ordered to be given unto God for the many successes it hath pleased God to give the parliament’s forces, this great blessing, of God’s delivery into the hands of the parliament Tiverton and the Castle, may be remembered, and thanks given God for this blessing also; the manner of taking thereof being very remarkable.”

“Ordered, that the committee of the west,\* do forthwith pay unto the two messengers that brought this good news of the taking in of Tiverton, the sum of £15: to the messenger that lives at Blandford the sum of £10; and to the other £5.”

After this event the Town and Castle remained under the quiet subjection of the commonwealth government.

The conviction, so often expressed, that the position chosen by general Massey for the battery from whence to bombard the castle, was on Shillands, near the Roman catholic chapel, and situated on the right bank of the river Exe, and N. N. W. of

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\* The committee for Devonshire were formed of — Sir Peter Ball, Sir George Parry, Mr. Sainthill, and Mr. Muddiford, with others.

- A. D. 1645. the town, being open to so many objections ; and as such a conclusion was drawn chiefly from a few cannon balls having been found there,† we would offer one or two remarks on it.

It has been distinctly stated both by Clarendon and Spragge, ( the latter a most interested writer on the parliament side,) that Sir Thomas Fairfax moved from Cullompton with six or seven thousand men, “leaving some horse and foot at Bradnix, (Bradninch) Silverton, and Culm John, within four miles of Excester, and accordingly as was desired, it succeeded, in that the enemy were enforced to draw all over Ex.”\* General Fairfax’s expressed object was to keep his army on the left bank of the river, and “to compel lord Goring to remain on the other side, as that river would act as a natural barrier against him, and prevent his breaking through the parliamentary lines, and by marching eastward, either join the King, or annoy Fairfax in the rear of his army ; a manœuvre he, (Goring) had nearly accomplished on more than one occasion. Had the battery in question been erected on Shil-lands, Fairfax must have occupied both sides of the Exe, and with six or seven thousand men had to lay siege to Tiverton, and guard an extent of country from the north of Honiton, to the high ground north west of Tiverton, with the river

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† The author has seen one or two of these, and they were not larger than 9lb. shot, and but ill calculated for a breaching battery.

\* Spragge.

separating his forces. Besides, from Shillands he would neither have commanded the drawbridge, or round tower, both of which must have been on the east side of the castle, as the foss or ditch, which was an extensive one, is known to have passed under the Lamb Inn, occupying the present road leading to Bolham, and extending in width as far as the west side of Frog street, some of which, to the present day, is called 'the Works.'

A. D.

1645.

The steep bank on the west side of the castle, formed almost a natural barrier against an assault in that direction; for although there is reason to believe, the course of the river, at that period, was more to the south,\* it is hardly to be supposed any General, however imperfectly versed in the art of war, would select the only inaccessible direction for his breaching battery, exposed, as it was, to the evils before mentioned.

It is said also, (I know not with what truth, but it is far from improbable,) that Fairfax held his council of war, before referred to, in Blundell's school, which would, in some degree, mark the direction his army occupied.

Thus, I may with confidence assert, that the battery from whence the castle was bombarded, was on Skrink-hills, south of Tiverton, and afterwards by some nearer approach; and no received mode of warfare can justify a different

- A. D. conclusion.\* "Sir Thomas Fairfax, on the reduction of Tiverton, removed his army to Silvertown, which he reached on the 26th. He returned to Tiverton on the 6th of December, and a council of war was held there on the 7th, where the head quarters remained until the 8th of January following."†
- 1645.

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\* There is a tradition also, and I think with much shadow of probability, that Fairfax, placed his guns on Sunday morning by the Black Horse, in Bampton street, which would render the account perfectly consistent, that the draw-bridge did not lead immediately into the castle, but into the works; as the account states, "the Cannon which had been playing against the works and castle, broke the chain of the draw-bridge in two, with a round shot; the bridge falling across the moat, the soldiers entered the works without waiting for orders, and the besieged, in a state of panic, fled into the Church and castle.

† Lyson, who quotes from Spragge's England's recovery.

The following is taken from the Orders in Parliament in 1646, p. 887.

Die Mercurii, 24th Maii, 1646.

An Order of the Commons assembled in Parliament, for a Collection for the relief of the Poor of the Parishes of *Tiverton* and *Culliton*, in the County of *Devon*.

"Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That on the next Monthly Fast day there be a Collection within the several Churches and Chappels within the Cities of London and Westminster, and Liberties thereof, the Lines of Communication, and weekly Bills of Mortality; and that one moiety of the said collection be paid by the several Collectors or Receivers thereof, unto Mr. Michael Herring, Merchant, to be disposed of and employed for the relief of the poor of the Parishes of *Tiverton* and *Culliton*, in the County of *Devon*, (which places are now sorely visited with the Plague) in such sort and manner as the Committee for the West shall direct and appoint; and that the other Moiety of the said Collection be employed and disposed by the Churchwardens or Overseers for the poor of the respective Parishes and places within the limits aforesaid, for the relief of the poor there;

"And that the several Ministers within the limits aforesaid do earnestly

The events which followed the capture of Tiverton castle were marked by a series of reverses, and Charles, with his army dispersed, and his friends dispirited, sought refuge and protection in the Scotch camp, then in the neighbourhood of Newark, by whom he was basely delivered into the hands of the Parliament, in 1647, and 30th January, 1649. He died on the scaffold.

A. D.

1647.

1649.

All parties allow that Cromwell was the chief promoter of the Kings murder.\* Ambition urged a bold and restless spirit to seek an eminence unparalleled. "The contending fanaticism, says De Lorme, of persecuting sects, joined in the conflict between Regal haughtiness and the ambition of individuals; the tempest blew from every part

stir up the people to a free and charitable contribution, the necessities of their own poor, as well as of the poor of *Tiverton* and *Culliton*, calling for greater supplies than otherwise, both in respect of the hand of God in his visitation being upon them, and the distractions of the times; and the Lord Mayor of the City of London is desired that the respective Ministers may have notice of this Order."

Orders in Parl. 1646. p. 887.

From this ordinance it appears that Tiverton was still afflicted with the Epidemic then prevalent, and doubtless reduced to great distress from "the distractions of the times" which must have impoverished the Town greatly whilst it continued the seat of war. A similar ordinance to this was passed by the House of Commons, on the 9th of December, 1645, for the relief of the Town of Manchester, also visited with the pestilence.

v. Orders in Parl. 1645. p. 768.

\* It is a curious fact, that the descendants of Charles the First, and Oliver Cromwell, married in the fourth generation.

Charles 2nd.

Lady Falconberg,

Lady Litchfield,

Lady Russel,

Earl of Litchfield,

Sir Thomas Frankland,

Earl of Litchfield, == Diana Frankland.



A. D. 1649. of the compass ; the constitution was rent asunder, and Charles exhibited in his fall, an awful example to the universe.”||

On the occasion of the King's death, the corporation of Tiverton changed their gowns from scarlet to black, as a mark of loyalty.\*

A convenient Market Cross was this year, 1649, erected in the Fore street, a few feet from Coggans's well.

This year, the assizes were again held in Blundell's school, in consequence as it is stated† of James Gould, the mayor of Exeter, having refused to proclaim the usurpers in power, and also for slighting the Judges on circuit on their arrival in the city ; for which he was fined £200, and the assizes were removed to Tiverton. “The Judges names were Lord Chief Baron Wild, and Mr. Justice Rigby ; the former sat in the fives place in the School-house green, and the latter in the desk of the Higher school.”‡

1653. In 1653, the law regarding marriages was changed from a religious, to a civil ceremony, and similar in its operation to the act now in force.§

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|| See page 52.

\* A curious custom prevailed in Tiverton on the 29th of May, until within the last few years ; for an account of which see appendix, No. 8.

† Prince.

‡ Blundell.

§ W. 4. c.

The first, under the new form which appears in the Tiverton register, is as follows;—

A. D.

1653.

“Joshua Fursley and Margaret Hollbiam, their contract of marriage was published in our Church, (*or meeting-place,—or in the public market-place,*) three several Lords, (*or market*) days; viz, the 9th October, 16th, and 23rd; and no exception or opposition against the said contract. They were married 24th of October, by the Right Worshipfull William London, Maior, in the presence of John Hatswill, Robert Smyth, Isaac Milton, and me Harry King.”\*

In consequence, doubtless, of this arrangement, more marriages took place in 1654, 5, 6, and 7, than in any preceding, and many following years. From 1658, to 1660, the entries in the Register are different. For example;—“William Reede and Mary Salter, married the 30th day of September, 1662, by Daniel Cudmore.”†

\* Henry King was the Registrar, and his appointment is entered in the Church register, as follows;—

“I do hereby authorize and appoint Henry King, of Tiverton, to be Registrar within the towne and parish of Tiverton, and County of Devon being lawfully chosen by the Inhabitants of Tiverton, in pursuance of an act of Parliament intituled, “an act touching marriages and the registering thereof, and also touching births and burials,” under my hand the 20th day of September, 1653.

William London, Maior.

In the list of Prisoners “committed upon the late insurrection,” and bearing date Exon 22 March, 1654. I find “Thomas Coke of Tiverton, Thatcher, and “William Deyman of do. gent.” G. O.

† An act was passed in 1680, by which “all marriages, had or solemnized in any of his Majesty’s dominions since the 1st day

A. D.  
1555.

In 1655, the market day was changed from Monday to Tuesday; and in this year, five members of the body corporate were removed by order of John Lord Desborowe, Lord Lieutenant of the County, for being "scandalous in their lives, or enemies to the commonwealth,"\* and the following persons were chosen in their places; Samuel Foot, William Berry, Henry Fitzwilliams, William Wood, and Peter Bere, junior.†

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of May, 1642, before any Justice of the peace, or reputed Justice of the Peace in England and Wales, or other his Majesty's dominions, &c., shall be considered, as if the Marriage had been had and solemnized according to the rites and ceremonies established &c." 20. Charles 2nd.

\* The following is a true copy of the order, addressed to Thomas Fowler, Esq. Mayor of Tiverton.

"Mr. Meayor.

Sir.

I have received sundry informations against John Deyman, Aquila Skinner, George Waldron, Thomas Prowse, and Thomas Hartnoll, Members of your Corporation; wherein they are Scandalous in their Lives or Enemies to the Common wealth, which indeed is a Dishonour to God, or Scandal to the Government, and a Burden to the Well-affected: For the prevention of which, I am to remove such whithersoever I find them, either in Magistracy or in Places of Trust. And being unwilling to make them public Examples, I thought a private Dismission fitter. Wherefore pray signify this unto them, and that you may make Choice of others in their Rooms or Places, as the Act of Parliament directs you thereunto. And if any of the Persons above mentioned do refuse to yield Obedience hereunto, then you are to give me Account thereof that I may take an effectual Course for the same." Being all at present from

your affectionate friend,

John Desborowe.

Exon March 16th, 1655.

† In a letter of Mr. James Nutley, to secretary Thurloe, (state papers, page 399, vol. 8.) dated Exon 1655, there is the following passage. "One Mr. Atkins of Tiverton, served of the grand jury here, from whom I had my best information of what was done in private."

November 12th, 1661, about one o'clock in the morning, another dreadful fire happened in the widow Camp's house, near Mr. Skinner's mills in Westex, and the wind blowing with great violence from the south west, in less than three hours, 45 dwelling houses, besides outhouses and workshops, were consumed. The loss in working tools, household goods, &c. was estimated at more than £2770, which fell chiefly on fullers, weavers, cloth workers, and other poor artificers. A brief was granted by the King for the relief of the sufferers, and a large subscription was made.\*

A. D.

1661.

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\* About this period it appears, many Halfpenny tokens were circulated by some of the principal inhabitants of Tiverton, of which we have been enabled to mention three.—The first was among many copper tokens, found a few years since at Exeter, and mentioned by Capt. Short. It bears the name of Richard Bellamy, of Tiverton, having on the ob. B. R. H. 1661; Rev. a fleece of wool, emblematic of the ancient staple of that town. The next was communicated by the Author of the Gentleman's Magazine in having the title of "John Paty, of Tiverton, 1664. His Halfpenny." The third is also mentioned by Capt. Short, and is inscribed Thomas Alldread, of Tiverton, 1667. His. HALF. PENY. On one side, on a shield — a chevron charged with five cloves between two compasses or callipers, dilated, and a pine apple erected. "Evidently a grocer, probably a dealer in all sort of wares." The application of the term grocer it appears referred to many ramifications in those jovial days of Royal Charles of Buckhurst, Rochester, and other Court rakes, of the smiles of Castlemaine, and the tiny room of Nell, of the bewitching Stewart, the blushing Bagot, and tender-eyed Temple! it was then indeed that the Star Chamber restrictions on a man becoming a tradesman, were no longer in force. Then it was that the extreme austerity of the Puritans produced a revolution rapid and violent. Profligacy became a test of orthodoxy and loyalty, qualification for rank and office, and the favorite dutchess stamped about Whitehall cursing and swearing. The more ancient grocers name was "pepperers," from their selling drugs and spices—but a *seceding* party abstracted this branch from them soon after the Restoration "having

A. D.

1676.

In Blundell's memoirs, it is remarked, that, "among the rest of these sad accidents which happened this year, many also claim a share in our pity; for about the month of September, another fire happened near the pound, on the south side of Gold street, which broke out in the night time, in the house of one William Jones, which burnt his house, and two others adjoining, as also two of the said Jones's children."\*

1682.

In 1682, a pardon was granted, by Charles the Second, to George Hartnoll, Thomas Thomas, Roger Chamberline, Arthur Culme, and William Hewett, formerly mayors, but now capital burgesses of the town and parish of Tiverton; John Upcott, Peter Pierce, and John Joy, formerly assistant, but now capital burgesses; Henry Blagdon, George Davey, Alexander Bidgood, Robert Burridge, and John How, now assistant burgesses; for having undertaken and performed the duties imposed on the members of the corporation, without taking the test and corporation

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been incorporated by James the First, under the designation of Apothecaries."

The third letter in these tokens is supposed to be the Wife's initials. (*Short's collectanea, curiosa.* p. 81.)

\* p. 18.

In Hewett's mss. journal, I find the following entry. "May 19th, a grave maker found a leaden coffin in Saint Peter's Chapel, now the parish Church of Tiverton, in digging of a grave for Mr. William London, of Howden, almost consumed, belonging to one of the Rivers, Earls of Devon, who died in the castle."

oaths, and attending the Sacrament, according to an act passed 13, Charles the 2nd.

A. D.

1683.

In 1683, the corporation surrendered this charter to the King, on the plea of receiving from him a new grant, whereby he appointed Henry Blagdon, mayor, the celebrated Henry Monk, Duke of Albemarle, recorder, and several new members in the corporation.\* The authorities, however, neglected to register the surrender of the old charter,—but the omission, was not essential, as the charter of Charles the Second, whether it was a new one, or that of James, differs only in a few alterations in the corporate offices.

The severe winter of 1683 was long remembered in Tiverton, from the Exe having been frozen over for ten weeks, enabling men, women, and children to pass from Westexce to the town, during the whole, or a greater portion of that period.

The religious animosities which existed in England on the death of Charles the 2nd,—the immoral direction given to society by the example at Court, and the strong Roman Catholic bearing of which the King was suspected, had created serious plots and dissensions; and although these animosities were checked for a time, they were far from subdued; and on James the Second ascending the Throne, it burst forth with all the violence

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\* In a MSS., written by Mr. Peard, it is stated, that the new corporation wore black gowns for three years after this appointment, but for what purpose is not said.

A. D. 1683. of religious zeal. He declared his brother had died a Roman Catholic, and produced documents in Charles's own hand, (which were found among his papers,) in proof of his assertion.\* Trade continued to decline, and England once more had to prepare for an approaching storm. The elements of despotism and monkish zeal which guided James, the expressions of "absolute power," and "unlimited obedience," which appeared in his declarations, roused into action that spirit, influenced and conducted, as it was, by people of high rank and bearing, which soon urged the King with violence on the rock that was doomed to wreck his authority.

1685. 'The insurrection of 1685, headed by the Duke of Monmouth, received particular support in the west of England, where he was a great favorite; and although it did little towards crushing the tyrannical acts of James, yet it laid the foundation of the Revolution, which in three years was destined to terminate the Stuart reign in England.

On Sunday July the fifth, 1685, was fought the battle of Sedgemoor, near Bridgewater, in which the Duke of Monmouth was defeated,—his followers dispersed,—and this unfortunate, but talented and accomplished Nobleman, after wandering about in the neighbourhood of the New Forest, was taken

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\* See appendix, No. 9.

on the 8th of July, and executed on Tower-hill the 15th following.

A. D.

1685.

The different Assizes which were held in the West of England, by that relentless man, Judge Jefferies, immediately following this execution, were characterized by the excessive severity adopted,—292 persons are said to have received sentence at Dorchester,—243 at Exeter, and a large number at Taunton; out of which more than 205 were executed. The whole neighbourhood was strewed with the heads and limbs of traitors, or persons sacrificed to the impetuosity of a relentless judge, and many towns and villages, beheld the apportioned remains of Monmouth's followers. The head of a dissenting minister who was executed at Taunton, was fixed on the market-cross at Tiverton, and four quarters were exposed on poles, in different parts of the town; one at the east end of Downs lane,—another at Waldron's alms houses,—a third near Mr. Skinner's mills, in Westexe,—and a fourth by the cross leading to the town of Bampton.\*

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\* For an interesting and particular account of this rebellion, see Savage's history of Taunton, page 431, to 557.

1687. On digging in the place where Cranmore castle stood, now called Skrink-hills, several bones were found of persons slain in the conflict which took place there in 1549. See page 20. Also, several bullets.

"This place now contains three fields of tillage ground. A chapel formerly stood on the south east end of the path close, adjoining the causey-close." (*Blundell*,) p. 20. I can learn nothing of any such chapel, and imagine it must be a mistake.



A. D.

1688.

These were afterwards removed and decently interred near the little door in St. Peter's Church yard, by order of Captain Cunningham, who came to Tiverton in command of a troop of Horse belonging to the Prince of Orange.

The Prince landed at Brixham, in Torbay, on Sunday November 5th, 1688, having with him a large fleet, about 6000 horses, and 10,000 foot. On the 9th he entered Exeter with his guards, having in his way passed two or three days at Powerham,<sup>§</sup> and on the four following days the main body of the army advanced, after receiving considerable augmentation, and were encamped on Clist-heath, with the exception of a small force which was sent to Tiverton, Cullompton, Honiton, and the neighbouring parishes. Some gentlemen of consideration from Somersetshire, and Dorsetshire,<sup>†</sup> on their coming to join his Royal Highness at Exeter, 15th November, 1688, were addressed by the Prince, to the following effect. "We expected you that dwelt so near the place of landing, would have joined us sooner, not that it is now too late, nor that we want your military assistance so much as your countenance and presence, to justify our declared pretensions, rather than accomplish our good and gracious designs; though we have brought both a good fleet, and a good army to

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<sup>§</sup> Sandford's genealogy.

<sup>†</sup> "Sir Edward Seymour, Sir William Portman, Colonel Lutterel, and many others of great estate and interest."

render these kingdoms happy, by rescuing all Protestants from popery, slavery, and arbitrary power; by restoring them to their rights and properties established by law, and by promoting of peace and trade, which is the soul of government, and the very life-blood of a nation.”\*

A. D.  
1688.

Soon after the Prince's arrival at Exeter, he received a declaration from several Noblemen, Knights, and Gentlemen of the neighbourhood, expressing their determination to support his cause against popery and slavery.†

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\* For the whole of this address, see appendix, No. 11.

† The last visit paid to Tiverton by the Prince's friends was of a less amicable nature, as they seized and carried away 100 horses, giving little or nothing for them; as the only item in the list of expenditure at that time at all bearing on the subject, is the following. “By money paid to a messenger sent into the country to enquire after horses, £1. 1s. 0d.

A curious anecdote is mentioned, in connection with this subject, by Mr. Anstey, of Jurishayes, as having occurred to his great grandfather, and which he has frequently heard his father relate, respecting a fine horse that was taken from the former. He had sent his servant to Tiverton, who returned with all due expedition to say, some soldiers of the Prince of Orange had taken away the horse. Mr. Anstey naturally hastened to town, and going to the Old Bow, a public house, next to Slee's almahouse in Peter street, he found his horse, with many others, in charge of some soldiers. He applied to the Officers on the subject, who said, “Oh! it is your horse, is it? Well, if you will come to Exeter next week, you shall be paid for him in Ducatoons.” (a very handsome Dutch coin, as large as a five shilling piece, in value about 5s. 3d.) Mr. Anstey never having before heard of Ducatoons, and the Officer not speaking very good English, replied, “I wish you luck with the horse, it is not worth my while to be going to Exeter for a duck or two,”—and so left him.

‡ For this paper at length, see appendix, No. 12.

A. D.

1688.

The Prince left Exeter 'en route' to Salisbury, about the 20th of November, and in a short time his standard was surrounded by most of the leading men in the kingdom.\*

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\* In what was formerly called the Hospital chest are two ancient parchment rates of the soldiers and arms to be raised in the town and parish of Tiverton, bearing date 1650, and 1691,—wherein every estate of land, or houses, with £50 per annum, and every £600 stock in goods or chattels, were bound to raise and provide for a foot soldier each. Any one having less property, or rental, was directed to unite with as many neighbours as would make up the before mentioned value to raise such soldier, and each principal of his district was held responsible for the rest of his neighbours for the said amount. Thus, a man being rated at £3. 2s. 6d, per annum, was bound to contribute 1||16 towards the expense of a soldier, and any person having £225. stock, was to contribute 6||16. The estates in the country provided the horse in the same proportion. In 1691, the parishioners were called on to raise 108 foot soldiers, and 50 horse.

The land tax, or subsidies to King James the second, amounted to £59. 9s. 6d.

As connected with the same subject we would mention two ancient and interesting Registers, which were discovered by the Rector of Dartington, near Totness, in 1799, occupying a place in an old chest that for many years had stood in an ale house. The first entry is in 1483, 1. R. 3. and the second, 1554, from whence the following is extracted;—

"1557. Item, payd to Richard Mowntegew for a sworde for the warys, *iii. viijd.*"

"1568, Item, pd. for *iiij.* Calyvers, & *xx.* Pikes, *vis.*"

"1572. Item, pd. to John Twegges for *iiij* cases of Arrowes, *ijs. iiijd.*"

"1583. Item, pd. to the Constable to the treynnyng of the soldiers at Whitsintud, *vjs. viijd.*"

"1600. A sword, with a basket hilt, girdles, hangings, & bandelers.

"Besides the rood, or cross, arms and articles of a similar kind belonging to the party, were formerly deposited in the Rood-loft, over the screen."

These interesting notices were published in the Theological Review, and British Critic.

A. D.

1688.

The decay of the woollen trade naturally created a great outcry in the West of England; and with a view to its encouragement, an act was passed by Charles the second, ordering that all dead bodies should be buried in woollen shrouds. This act, the provisions of which were subsequently enforced, preserved its place in the statute book for more than 130 years.

Had the establishment and progress of manufacture been left more at liberty to work its own way, instead of the number of protecting and prohibiting duties, (see statute of Edward the sixth on this subject,) particularly as regards machinery, the chances of success would have been greater. The Dutch and Flemings had gained a decided superiority over the English, in the manufacture of the best materials, especially until the end of the 17th century; and "it was not, until 1668, when some emigrants from Flanders settled in England, that he succeeded in producing any of the finest cloths, or those made entirely of Spanish wool, without the admixture of any wool of an inferior quality."\*

The friendly intercourse with Holland, in 1688, and the encouragement given by the Prince of Orange to English enterprise, produced a most beneficial effect on the woollen trade. "At this period† the estimated value of wool shorn in

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\* *Memoirs of Wool*, by Smith, vol. 1. p. 229. et seq.

† *Davenant's works*, Whitworth's ed. v. 2. p. 233.

A. D. 1688. England was £2,000,000 a year; and they supposed the value of the wool, (including that imported from abroad) was quadrupled in the manufacture; making the entire value of the woollen articles annually produced in England and Wales £8,000,000 of which about £2,000,000 were exported. In 1700, and 1701, the official value of the woollens exported, amounted to about £3,000,000 a year.

1692. In 1692, a charter of incorporation was granted by William and Mary, as follows; —“*Tiverton. Rex et Regina erexerunt quoddam Corpus corporatum et politicum per Nomen de le Masters, Wardens, Assistants, and Commonalty of Grocers, Mercers, and Wollen and Linnen Drapers in Tiverton, in Com. Devon. Originalia. Anno 4. Rotulo 4.*”<sup>\*</sup> The preamble, as expressed in the original charter, which is preserved in the Roll’s chapel, states, that the parties “have by their humble petition besought us, that, for the better regulation, encouragement, and improvement of the said several trades, and preventing abuses therein,” they should be incorporated. These acts and ordinances were approved and confirmed by the lord chief justice, Sir John Holt, and lord chief baron, Sir John Turton, 25th July 1692, who affixed their seals and signatures thereto.† This charter is

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<sup>\*</sup> Jones’s index to the records, vol. I.

† The original roll, (11 feet 3 inches long) containing these acts and ordinances, is now in the possession of Mr. Clement Govett, some further extracts from which will be found in the appendix, No. 13, but it

thus alluded to in Jones's index, vol. 1. as follows;—"Tiverton. *Rex et Regina dimiserunt ad firmam Majori et Burgensibus Villæ de Tiverton, parcellam Terræ Vocatæ Elmore, in Comitata Devon. Originalia, Anno 5, Rotulo 40.*"

A. D.

1692.

On the 8th of September, the shock of an Earthquake was felt in Westex; and on the 8th of December, the river Exe rose to so great a height, that in the West side of the Town, it was said to have been more than two feet high, and occasioned considerable damage.\*

About the month of December 1693, John How, mayor, John Ivy, justice, esquires, and others of the corporation, leased 30 acres of the common of Elmore, to several poor persons,† a lease having been this year granted by William and Mary, of the manor of Elmore, (computed at about 150 acres,) to the mayor and corporation of Tiverton, for 99 years, paying a conventionary rent

1693.

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does not appear to have been long in operation as the burthens were greater than the advantages.

\* A circumstance of a singular character is mentioned both in Blundell's memoirs, and in Hewett's mss. as connected with this flood. "A child of four years of age, called Grace Vanstone, by accident fell into the water-gutter, and was carried through Mr. Nicholas Poole's house, a baker, adjoining to Exebridge, (the length of the said under-ground gutter being about 36 feet in length,) and from thence into the river Exe, about 20 feet more, when she caught hold of a wear-stake, which some persons seeing, they soon made after her, and saved her. She is now living to attest this providential escape."

† Where are those leases?

N.

A. D. of 20s. only, on condition of their recovering the whole of these lands, and directing them for the benefit of the poor ; it appears therefore, that at this period much of this valuable benefaction had been alienated, and that 30 acres was the whole remaining in their possession.

1696. In 1696, an Organ was erected, by subscription in St. Peter's Church, and said to be the second in the county of Devon, that beautiful instrument in Exeter Cathedral being the first.

1699 In 1699, a convenient corn Market-house was built on the west side of Bampton street ; and an Hospital, which occupied the site of the present Union-house, was also erected by act of parliament, at an expense of about £2000.†

1700. The year following, 1700, about 60 poor persons of Tiverton were admitted into the work-house, or hospital.

The society of wool-combers in Tiverton was first formed on the 15th June, for the laudable purpose of affording support to the sick, aged,

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† This act, dated 15th April 1698, committed the government of the hospital, and controul of the funds raised for the relief of the poor, to a body of 52 guardians ; consisting of the mayor, recorder, capital burgesses, and assistants, the portreeve, and 25 of "the ablest and discreetest inhabitants ;" to be chosen once in three years by the rate payers. A new governor, deputy governor, and treasurer being elected every year. This government was discontinued in 1769. See appendix, No. 14.

A book of proceedings under the above act, extending to 1758, contains many interesting particulars, extracts from which will be found in the appendix.

and infirm. The principles by which this society was regulated were generally just and equitable, but an evil practice had been occasionally complained of, that of curtailing the weekly stipend due to the sick and aged, where it had been of long continuance. §

A. D.

1703.

On the 27th November, an awful storm occurred which raged with great fury from ten P. M. to three o'clock the next morning, when the gale was at its height. The damage it occasioned in Tiverton is represented as very great. Both Blundell in his memoirs, and Hewett's M.S.S. journal, mention the circumstance of a stormy Petrel having been picked up, quite warm, in an orchard belonging to one widow Berry, in Barrington street.\*

In 1704, some articles of agreement were entered into, between the farmers and day-labourers of this parish, the object in view being to afford relief in cases of sickness or adversity. All admissions were governed by the salutary regulation of requiring a character for loyalty and honest reputation; and no member to be admitted above the age of 50 years.

1704.

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§ Dunsford.

\* This has not been a very uncommon occurrence of late years.

On the 1st of May, several wool-combers were brought before Richard Acland, esquire, high sheriff for the County of Devon; George Davey, esquire, mayor, James Glaid, recorder, &c.

N 2



A. D.            John Alstone's alms-houses were also, this  
1704.           year, erected on the south side of Birchin-lane,  
                 Westexe, as habitations for six poor Fullers, each  
                 having one shilling a week.

                 The woollen trade continued in a prosperous  
                 state during the reign of Queen Anne, and many  
                 merchants acquired means which enabled them to  
                 live in ease and affluence. The termination of her  
                 reign, however, was marked by continued dissen-  
                 tion, and Tiverton became a scene of violence  
                 and confusion. The Church-party, and non-con-  
                 formists were at open variance with each other,  
                 throughout the kingdom, and scenes of continued  
                 altercation occurred, not only in the opposition  
                 ranks, but among the ministers themselves.\* The  
1713.           jacobites looked with care and anxiety to the  
                 ministry of Bolingbroke, who was known to be an  
                 implacable enemy to the Whigs, the most zealous  
                 advocates of the Protestant succession. The death  
                 of the Queen, however, annihilated this minister's  
                 hopes, "the Whig party became elated and over-  
                 bearing, and the Tories abashed and humble."†  
                 But amid these contentions an essential good to  
                 the Church at Tiverton was affected in the erection  
                 of St. George's chapel, through the benevolence of  
                 Mrs. Mary Peard, and the foundation stone of this  
                 sacred edifice was laid by the Rev. John Newte,

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\* In 1713, 14th December, the Charity-boys first went to school in the School-house.

† Hume.

rector of Pitt portion, December 1st, 1714, in the presence of George Thorne, esquire, mayor, and several hundred spectators ; and although it does not appear to have been completed for consecration until 1730, it was an essential benefit to the Church - party.

A. D.

During the reign of George 1st, the trade of Tiverton continued to increase, and the population was greater than it had been at any former period, amounting to near 9000 souls. The annual returns of the trade of this Town, at the time of which we are speaking, was full £350,000. Many considerable merchants were living here, some of whom are said, by traditional account, to have exported 600 mixed serges weekly ;\* 1500 looms were in daily operation, and more than 700 wool - combers in constant employ.

1715.

In drawing a short comparison between the state of Tiverton at the period of which we are now speaking, and the years from 1620 to 1645, we should, perhaps, be inclined to conclude, that Tiverton was in a more prosperous state at the latter period, than at any other time, as conveyed to us through the records of the town. The population in 1643, amounted to nearly 8,500 souls, and the parish register contains a continued increase throughout the years above mentioned.†

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\* Dunsford.

† See appendix, No. 16.

A. D.

1715.

At the commencement of the religious differences of which we have been speaking, the town of Tiverton became the scene of a severe election contest ; (1710) the two candidates for the Church party being Sir Edward Northleigh, attorney general, and John Worth, esquire, of Worth ; and their opposers, Thomas Bere, of Huntsham, and Richard Mervin, esquires, the former members. In the result, "the Whiggist and Presbyterian interest was clearly overthrown, in the due election of those worthy and honorable gentlemen aforesaid, Sir Edward Northleigh, knight, and John Worth, esquire, of Worth."\*

1716.

A severe frost occurred this year, and the Exe remained in a frozen state for a month, forming a passage across the river during the whole of that period.†

1720.

The merchants of Tiverton had, for a short time past, been in the habit of importing a large quantity of Irish worsted‡ for the purpose of

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\* Blundell's memoirs, who has recorded the names and division of the corporation on this occasion, 13 being for the successful party, and 12 on the other side. It is observed by Dunsford, p. 197, that "this year, (1687) also, the potwalladers of the borough returned the two burgesses for parliament," and he refers to Hewett's memoirs as his authority, but after strict search, instituted in 1832 by a respected inhabitant of Tiverton, it was found that no record of such a return existed.

On the 22nd April, this year (1715) there occurred a total eclipse of the Sun, commencing about nine o'clock in the morning.

† mss. journal.

‡ Dunsford received his information from several old persons then

working white serges, to be dyed in piece, a cheaper, and inferior manufacture, than by dyeing them in wool, and the materials were bought at a more reasonable rate in Ireland, in consequence of the low price of labour in that country, as well as saving one course of combing the wool.

“The wool-combers of Tiverton, fearing the introduction of Irish worsted, would not only lessen, but perhaps finally exterminate their branch of manufacture, violently opposed the merchants; and assembling in great numbers, attacked the houses of those who had been the largest importers of this material, dragged it into the streets, and destroyed all they could find: large quantities were hung on sign-posts as trophies of victory, where a portion of it remained for nearly twelve months. Several houses, belonging to those who first introduced it were rifled, and others found it necessary to make considerable preparation for their defence.\* The magistrates assembled a number of constables, who attacked the combers on the Oat-hill,† where a severe battle ensued, the mob arming themselves with a horse-load of wood which they had seized, and forming bats, they became formidable opponents for a long time. They were at length however

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living, who were eye witnesses of the same; particularly one John Pinsent, an apprentice at that time, but afterwards in Mr. Dunsford's employ.

\* Particularly Mr. George Thorne, and Mr. Thomas Enchmarch, who resided near each other in Bampton street.

† Near the Angel.

A. D.

1720.

- A. D. overpowered, and many of them sent to gaol, but  
 1720. it appears, although tried for the capital offence, they escaped further punishment.

The manufacture of serges with Irish worsted continued but a short time, being found unequal in goodness to those made of English and Irish wool, combed and spun here. It was also an unfit manufacture for the cane sleas then in use.

About this time were also introduced into Tiverton, by Oliver Peard, Thomas Enchmarch, and others, a manufacture of fine druggets, drapeens, or chain druggets, and cloth serges; which in the course of thirty years became of great advantage to those merchants engaged in it.\*

1723. In 1723,† the violent contentions long existing in the corporation, had risen to so great a height, that they neglected to choose their mayor, in the manner prescribed by the charter, which rendered it necessary that all courts should take place in the Town-hall, in the presence of the chief magistrate; and Samuel Burrige, who held that office, and some others, disagreeing with the remainder, refused to attend; and although a large body of the corporation met on the *stairs* and elected John

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\* Dunsford.

† This year the weather continued so long dry, that the bed of the river Exe was free from water for eight months, so that the inhabitants crossed without wetting their feet.

It is also recorded, that several women took the oaths of abjuration, allegiance, and supremacy before the mayor and justices.

Tristram, the act was held invalid, as the appointment did not take place in the manner specified. Thus the power under the provisions of the charter became extinct, and the government of the town returned to the Lord of the Manor, Portreeve, and County Magistrates.\*

A. D.

1723.

A new charter, dated 4th December, 1724,† was granted by George I, in consequence of a petition from “many of our well - beloved subjects, the inhabitants of the town and parish of Tiverton ;” but party strife was active in the execution of this purpose, as both sides used equal energy in

1724.

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\* We cannot state the origin of these disputes, but it appears to have originated in both religious and political differences, which were sustained, on both sides with unbecoming violence. Corporations were instituted to guard over and dispense the beneficence of others, and as a collective body to watch over the interests of, and distribute justice to the community over whom they preside ; and the moment they, either individually or collectively, descend to allow party feeling or personal interests to operate in the discharge of a high prerogative, that sacred trust is violated ; their duty to others is lost in the contemplation of their own ;—and they become, most justly the mock and scorn of every good man.

† The application for a new charter was referred to Sir Philip Yorke, and Sir Clement Wearg, attorney and solicitor general ; who in their report, adverted to the case of Banbury as conclusive that the corporation was dissolved ; and delivered it as their clear opinion, that it could not exist after the loss of an integral part, which was made necessary by its constitution.

- Among Mr. Justice Cleve's mss., which are a collection of cases by several Judges, this case of Tiverton is mentioned ; and he says, “on the Mayor's absenting himself and no election being made on the Charter day, it was the opinion of the attorney and solicitor General, and seemed to be the general opinion, that the Corporation was dissolved, and accordingly on application to the King, a new charter was granted.” See cases in Easter - term, 29, Geo. 3.

A. D.

1724.

procuring signatures to their respective petitions; the one, supported by Nathaniel Thorne, Samuel Burridge, merchants, and their followers, praying for a renewal of the old charter; the other, directed by John Upcott, and his followers, petitioned for an extension of the franchise, or that no charter should be granted. The majority appears to have been in favor of the first, or Church party, to whom the charter was conceded; and although they are accused of procuring signatures under the impression that the freemen at large were to participate in the privilege of returning their members to parliament, and not to be vested in the corporation only as directed by the charter of James 1st, still it appears singular that so flagrant a deception could be so successfully practised without detection. The result is, however, that the charter was brought to Tiverton in triumph on the 24th of December. Many of the inhabitants went out to meet it, and numbers from the neighbouring towns and villages, formed a part of the assembly. The procession was headed by horsemen, and a band of music, followed by the town clerk, Mr. John Richards, in a blue cloak trimmed with gold lace, on horseback, bearing the charter before him in a box covered with crimson velvet and gold. Councillor Manning, who brought it from London, followed, while carriages and hundreds of horsemen closed the procession.

They proceeded up Bampton street, to the house of Nathaniel Thorne, the new mayor, where,

after three hearty cheers, they were regaled with cyder,\* and beer. The procession continued its course to Peter street, where the new justice, Samuel Burridge resided, and after a series of acclamations and treating, they assembled in front of the Town-hall, from which the charter was read aloud in latin.

A. D.

1724.

The account continues, that the inhabitants generally did not discover that they were restrained by the new charter, from the participation in the election of representatives, until 1728, which occasioned a considerable disturbance at the time, and often since.†

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\* At this period cyder was so plentiful in Tiverton and the neighbourhood, that a hogshead was sold for the price of pounding.

† The legal style of the corporation is, "The Mayor and Burgesses of the Town and Parish of Tiverton, in the County of Devon." It consists of a mayor, twelve capital burgesses, and twelve assistants, a recorder, town clerk, two serjeants at mace, fourteen constables, a high constable, and a beadle.

The mayor, capital burgesses, and assistants constitute the common council; and the election of the chief magistrate takes place on Tuesday next after St. Bartholomew's day, under the direction of the mayor, capital burgesses, and assistants, or the major part of them. In practice, the junior capital burgess who has not served the office of mayor, is generally appointed. He is a justice of the peace for the borough, and presides at the quarter sessions, and in the civil court, or court of record.—

The 'restoring clause,' (which will be found marked 30 in the charter of George 1st. appendix 17,) grants, confirms, and restores "to the mayor and burgesses of the town and parish, and their successors" all and singular manors, messuages, tolls, tenements, courts, fairs, markets, courts of pied poudre liberties, privileges, immunities, franchises, licenses and all liabilities of purchasing, and possessing lands, tenements, and



A. D.  
1726.

1730.

In 1726, a fire broke out in Westex, near the Boot inn, which destroyed four or five dwellings; and in 1730, about fifteen houses in Newport, and Frog street were consumed, and several lives lost. The latter fire occurred on Sunday during divine service, and while the Rev. William Mervin was preaching, the alarm of fire was given, to the great consternation of the congregation. Among the many exertions used on this occasion, the benevolent zeal of Mr. Smith, master of Blundell's school, was very conspicuous, who immediately took off his gown and cassock to stop a gutter, that water might be more easily supplied, giving money to the bystanders to assist him in his good work.

1731.

The trade of Tiverton, under the administration of George 2nd, continued to prosper, and 56 fulling mills were regularly employed\* at that period.

other hereditaments, jurisdictions, &c. &c. as by letters patent, of James 1st., were granted or confirmed, or by whatsoever incorporation, they were incorporated, by any one, or any of our predecessors, late Kings or Queens of England, or any other person or persons whatsoever."

There is no absolute mention of the parliamentary franchise in the new charter. The body corporate, however, justly claimed the exclusive right of returning the members to parliament, as heretofore. By the charter of James 1., and confirmed by that of George 1st, the inhabitant householders were incorporated, as before observed, under the title of "the Mayor and Burgesses of the Town and parish of Tiverton," and the franchise may be granted, "(see Serjeant Glynne's opinion on the Franchise question, which was taken in the year 1778,) to a large community, to be exercised by a select part."

For additional extracts from this charter, see appendix, No. 17.

\* Dunsford gives the following list, with the positions of these fulling mills, from verbal testimony, many persons being then (1790) livin

A. D.

1731.

But it was destined, under the will of Providence, to receive a severe check in a dreadful fire which occurred Saturday June 5th. It commenced about six in the evening at a baker's house, on the north side of Gold street; and the weather having been long dry, this devouring element had, in a very short time, reached to a considerable height.

The fire engines being kept at the Church it was some time before assistance could be procured, and the confusion which prevailed, added considerably to the delay; so that when the largest engine had arrived, it was discovered that many things were forgotten essential to its use; and before the necessary implements arrived, both sides of the street being on fire, the engine was abandoned, and although full of water, was consumed. Thus it appears the fire for a considerable time was allowed to take its uninterrupted course. No person appeared at hand to direct, and all was consternation. Nearly three hundred houses, besides outhouses, were on fire at the same time, which is described as extending more than a quarter of a mile in length and nearly as much in breadth. Thus it proceeded until it reached the

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that remembered them;—6 at Greenway's near the turnpike gate on the Exeter road; 6 at the lower end of westere; 6 nearly opposite broad lane; 6 behind palehouse, where Mr. Rossiter's mills now stand; 6 at a short distance higher up the stream, at the ducking stool in leat street; 2 still higher up; 4 at Cuckow mills in the hams; 1 in Farley village; 2 near Worth house; 6 in the hamlet of Bolham; 2 near Cotley house; and 5 near Washfield weir. On the Lowman there were four; 2 at Ham mills, and 2 behind the Bridewell.

A. D.      west end of Fore street, and north of Bampton  
1731.      street, where some of the principal merchants resided; and their houses being built of stone or brick and slated, added to the great exertion which was at length used, and the wind, providentially being much moderated, the fire was arrested about four o'clock in the morning.

This great calamity is thus recorded in the parish register. "On the 5th day of June, An. 1731, a fire broke out in the house of one John Tucker, a baker, on Bans hill, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, which burnt all the houses on both sides of the street from Lowman bridge to Mr. Oliver Peard's house on the south side, and Mr. William Heathfield's house on the north side\* of High street, with a great part of Bampton street, and Barrington street, Germany, and all the out buildings and courtlages from the said streets; but by God's mercy but one person, one Henry Murray, a poor man belonging to Mr. John Greenway's alms houses, and in the same burnt."†

In the evening persons were appointed to make a correct list of the houses destroyed,—the persons who inhabited them,—and the property lost; by

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\* Mr. Oliver Peard, resided in a house afterwards replaced by a handsome building erected by Mr. Dickinson, in Fore street, now removed.

† This poor man, the only life lost, was sacrificed to his own obstinacy, as he could not be prevailed on to quit the building, (Greenway's alms houses,) saying, no one ever heard of an alms-house being burnt; and when, at last, he would have escaped, it was too late.

which it appeared 298 dwellings had been consumed, leaving 2000 persons without a home, and with the loss of most of their property.\*

A. D.  
1731.

On the news of this distressing visitation reaching Exeter, a subscription was immediately entered into and in a few days £381. 10s. 4d. was conveyed to Tiverton. These benevolent exertions had the effect not only of affording relief to the poor sufferers, but stimulated them to exertion, and the mayor calling a meeting of the corporation, clergy, and principal inhabitants the next day, to consider and arrange the best mode of proceeding, they once more encouraged a hope of restoring their Town. A collection was commenced without delay, which was followed by the most liberal contributions, even from among the more wealthy sufferers themselves. Within a few days many large benefactions were received. The King on hearing this awful occurrence, sent £1000 with

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\* See "an account of the late dreadful fire in Tiverton, in the County of Devon, by Samuel Smith, master of the free grammar school, in Tiverton," printed in London 1732; from which authentic publication the above account is for the most part taken.

In an account of this fire contained in the Gentleman's magazine, vol. 1. p. 329, it states the destruction, (which he copies from a letter addressed by the Rev. Samuel Newte, to Mr. Markham, schoolmaster in London,) to have been, "all the houses from Lowman bridge to the end of High street, (a few about the Church excepted) and all the dwellings backward, the greatest part of Barrington and Bampton streets, also, an Alms house, Corn-market house, Market cross, and Shambles." Dunsford states, that the wind blew strong from the north west; but had it been so, it would have retarded, rather than assisted the fire, which makes it much more likely to have been from the north east.

A. D. 1731. large donations from the Queen and Prince of Wales. Collections were made in London, Westminster, Bristol, and other places. The Bishop of Exeter recommended the consideration of the distress at Tiverton, in a circular, addressed to the Clergy of his diocese; and the hand of charity was extended, and sympathy felt throughout the kingdom.

The sums thus collected amounted to £10,201. 6s. 7½d. or nearly one fifth of the estimated loss, which according to the return made to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen in London, was £56,055. 4s. 9d; to which must be added Greenway's alms-houses\* £2200, which with some other losses would make a total of £58,976. 14s. 9d; and of this large amount of property not more than £1135 was insured.

Great, however, as the sufferings of these poor people were, it pleased God to visit them still further; as the small pox, (which had prevailed in the town some time previous to the fire,) from the number which were crowded together, became much more contagious. Eight or ten families, in many cases, occupied the dwelling apportioned previously to one, and the polluted air, rendered the disease more virulent and occasioned much additional suffering.

The committee appointed to arrange and dispose

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\* The chapel was preserved, but how that occurred is difficult to say.

of the sum before named, divided the sufferers into four classes,\* and entered into the following resolution, viz. "That we will not, in making the distribution to the sufferers, by the late dreadful fires, proceed by the rule of simple proportion, allowing so much in the pound to all, whom we shall judge fit objects of this charity; but due consideration shall be had of the circumstances they are left in, and the state of their families; and their allowance shall be great or less in proportion to their necessities, brought upon them by this calamitous accident." For the accommodation of the inhabitants, bake-houses were immediately erected in the Hospital.

A. D.  
1731.

This year an act of parliament was obtained for establishing St. George's chapel into a perpetual cure, and providing to the three Rectors, and Curate of Priors portion, who were appointed to

1732.

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\* The first class consisted of those who had lost all; the second, who had lost the greater part of their property; the third, those who required some remuneration; and the fourth, was formed of a number of benevolent persons, who neither wanted or would receive any share of the collections; which would have amounted to £22,175. 17s. 1d. Dunsford has most properly recorded their names, and I here repeat them;—Sir Thomas Carew, Bart. W. Coleman, Esq. Mr. H. Bellew, Mr. G. Davey, Mr. Thomas Enchmarch, Mr. T. Glass, Mr. W. Heathfield, Mr. T. Heathfield, Mr. Samuel Lewis, Mr. J. Parsons, Mr. Oliver Peard, Mr. J. Richards, Mr. Nathaniel Thorne, and Mr. W. Upcott, whose combined losses amounted to £15,244. 13s. 11d. Mr. Samuel Burridge, Mr. Thomas Birchinchaw, Mr. Shobrook, Messrs. P. Carthew, sen. and jun. Mr. Davey, Mr. E. Hartnoll, Mr. Jonathan Hall, and his mother, Mr. Bryant Hewett, Mr. P. Kerslake, Mr. E. Lane, Mr. David Mead, Mr. J. Newman, Mr. Caleb Paine, Mr. F. Shobrooke, and Mr. R. Shobrooke, whose combined losses amounted to £6,931. 3s. 2d.

P.

A. D. perform the duty, an annual stipend of £15 each.†

1732.

An act was also passed for the "better and more easy building of the town of Tiverton," and preventing danger from fire for the future. One of its provisions directed, "that all houses, out-houses, roofs, walls, and other buildings that have since the said fire been erected and built, or begun to be erected or built, or that shall hereafter be built and erected within the said town, shall be covered with lead, slate, or tile, and not otherwise." It also provided "for the maintenance of a fire engine or engines, at the proper cost and charges of the said parish, granting powers to the governor, deputy governor, and guardians of the poor, to make all necessary rate or rates and collect the same." It formed the mayor and corporators into a trust, adding thereto, the recorder, deputy recorder, and 13 other gentlemen of the town, giving them certain powers to act for the benefit\* of the community at large. This body was unable to maintain its position from a deficiency in their pecuniary arrangements, and the charitable establishment was restored to the original system.

1733.

October 11th. St. George's chapel was consecrated, by Stephen Weston, lord bishop of Exeter, and the expenses attending which, were paid by

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† See appendix, No. 18.

\* See appendix, No. 19.

the treasurer of the hospital corporation.\*

A. D.

In 1735, the town of Tiverton was completely restored: and as the principal merchants had not, generally been among the greatest sufferers from the late fire, the evil consequences to trade was not, therefore, to the extent of former disasters. We find also, that at this period, other manufactures of finer fabric, were introduced. Sagathies, druggets, cloth serges, and drapeens, were made in considerable quantities for the markets of Flanders, Brabant, and Germany. This business, in conjunction with the serge trade, afforded constant employment to all the poor population, and brought considerable wealth to the merchants engaged in it.

1735.

In May, 1738, a considerable riot occurred, occasioned by a publican named Grimes, who was accustomed to buy serges which had been returned from the merchants to the serge makers, and sell them back again at a reduced price. This practice it appears, was encouraged by the merchants, who thereby obtained a greater profit, but to the manifest injury of the manufacturer.

1738.

The dissatisfaction occasioned by this system, induced the workmen to adopt a mistaken and

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\* The market-cross was re-built at the cost of Mr. W. Upcott, merchant. It was removed in 1783, and two of the pillars that belonged to it are at present at the entrance of Mrs. Brewer's shop in Bampton street, where they have been a considerable time.



A. D. 1738. evil mode of redress.† They assembled in large numbers, and being joined by those of Uffculme, Bampton, Silverton, Cullompton, Bradninch, Culmstock, &c. with their united strength, they attacked the house of Grimes, who then resided at the Red Lion, in Gold street, broke into it, and finding a great quantity of serges, they drew them through the streets,—hanging a portion of them on the sign posts,—and destroying others. Grimes they found in the oven of a bake house, at the bottom of poundhill,\* and setting him astride on a staff borne on mens shoulders, he was carried through many streets, and at length set down before the mayor's house, ( Mr. Robert Dunsford ) in Peter street, who had him removed, and swore in a large body of special constables, by whom many of these rioters were taken and placed in gaol, but for a few hours only.

The mob from thence retreated to the top of Exeter-hill, where another skirmish occurred between the constables and rioters, in which a man from Bradninch was killed.‡

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† Dunsford, from whom I have taken the above sentence, mentions in August this year, some great riots having occurred in Tiverton, but he could not discover on what account. The circumstance appeared to have been brought to his knowledge, by an entry in the 'journal of the guardians,' to which he refers, "that the rioters were ordered to be prosecuted, at the expence of the hospital corporation." In all probability it was in reference to the riot of 1738. p. 224.

\* Doubtless Barns-hill, see page 102.

‡ December 24th, commenced a very severe frost which continued

A large woollen manufactory was this year established in the hospital, with the laudable intention of supplying work to the poor; but although formed with the most benevolent intentions, it entirely failed in its object, and the plan was abandoned the year following. In periods of prosperity much good might have resulted from the adoption of such a well intentioned plan; but, unhappily, the woollen trade was at the time, in too precarious a state to admit of success, where low wages, and little or no profit was the evident consequence.

A. D.  
1740.

In 1741, a most fatal epidemic, called the spotted fever, prevailed in the town of Tiverton, of which 636 persons died,\* or nearly one twelfth of the whole population, which was then calculated as rather under 7000 souls. The tolling of the bell was omitted to prevent additional alarm; still the town was almost deserted, and grass was said to have grown in the streets.†

1741.

The distress which prevailed in the manufacturing districts, and the disturbances it occasioned at this period, had filled the gaols and prisons of

1743

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about three months. It was a distressing season to the poor, as most of the vegetables were destroyed, and wheat rose to 10s. a bushel.

\* See parish register.

† It was possibly at this period the market was transferred to a large meadow on the Halberton road, immediately opposite the two-mile stone, from which cause the field has been partially called 'The Shambles,' its name is now great Tilsey, and is in extent about eight acres.

- A. D. 1743. the county; and in some notices which appeared in the Gentleman's magazine, for this year, the writer (who signs himself R. Danmoniensis,) says, "in consequence of the great reduction in the woollen trade, the poor have not half employment, and what they have is reduced to half-price, or by truck even lower, so that they are obliged to seek for work elsewhere, which verifies the old proverb of 'great cry and little wool'."

In consequence of the gaols being so crowded, as before remarked, a most fatal disease had been generated, "of which 100 died, in one prison in Exeter, in the space of a year, and which killed thousands in the county, (as set forth in a petition from Halberton,) between Taunton and Exeter, particularly at Tiverton, in which town 700 died in fifteen months, and the parish was at the expense of 500 coffins."

He describes the number of landlords and tenants, as well as merchants and tradesmen, about Exeter, Taunton, and Tiverton, that had lately failed, as being beyond example; and in reply to a statement that the distress was only local, from the trade being removed from the West to the North of England, particularly to Yorkshire, he justly observes, "with regard to the principal manufactures of the west, viz, serges, sagathies, and duroys, there were more made in Queen Anne's reign in one town only (Tiverton) in a week, than are now made in the north during the circuit of a

whole year, as is evident from the petitions sent from all the trading towns, particularly York, Halifax, Colchester, Manchester, Coventry, and Norwich." He adds, that at Frome the poors rate amounted to 14s. in the pound, as also at Halifax; and that Tiverton would be glad to assign over their estates to receive any thing at all."\*

A. D.

1743.

The war with France and Spain and the rebellion in Scotland, as might naturally be supposed, obstructed the channels of commercial enterprize, and added to the distress and dissatisfaction that had previously prevailed to so great an extent.†

1745.

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\* In 1744, the mayor, T. Cholwich, Esq. and corporation being displeased with the town clerk, were determined on removing him, having the power of doing so under the provision in the charter granted by George 1st., which states the town clerk "to continue in the said office during the pleasure of the mayor, capital burgesses, and assistants of the town and parish." A counsels opinion was taken as to the legal mode of proceeding, when it was recommended for the mayor to give sufficient notice in writing to the members of the corporation, of the purpose and time of meeting. A second meeting was held according to the form recommended, when G. Davey, Esq., was elected to the office.

† The following address and association of the mayor, corporation, clergy, and principal inhabitants of all denominations, of the Liberty of Tiverton, in the County of Devon, have been presented to his Majesty by Sir William Younge, representative in parliament for the Borough of Honiton, in the said County, being introduced by the Right Honorable Earl Cowper, one of the Lords of His Majesty's Bedchamber in waiting: which address and association His Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously.

*To the King's most excellent Majesty.*

We your Majesty's most dutiful Subjects, the Mayor, Corporation, Clergy, and principal Inhabitants of all denominations of the Liberty of Tiverton, in the County of Devon, with hearts full of loyal affection for your Majesty's sacred Person, and with a grateful sense of the many and

A. D.

1749.

About this time also, the manufacture of Tiverton, (serges) began to be supplanted in the markets of Holland, by the Norwich stuffs, and other woollen goods. Riots again ensued in the spring of this year, and another violent outrage was committed, on the house of a publican, named Thomas Beedle, who lived at the end of Water lane, guided by the same motives which induced the attack on Grimes, in 1738. They completely sacked his house, destroyed his furniture, dragged his chains and worsted about the streets, and let his beer run. The mob were unable to find Beedle, but one of his men, Moses Quick, they discovered, and after carrying him about the town on a pole, they treated him in the most inhuman manner.

Towards the end of the year another attempt

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great blessings which are secured to us under the present Government, as established in your Royal House, humbly beg leave to assure your Majesty of our utter abhorrence and detestation of that unnatural Rebellion lately begun in Scotland, and now raging in the North of England, in favour of a Popiah abjured Pretender, tending with hasty steps towards the subversion of all that can be dear to Britons, our Religious and Civil Liberties. May the Almighty Providence which is the only true Guardian and Protector of Religious Princes and States, prosper your Majesty's endeavours in support of your own lawful Rights, and the defence of a Free People. But that we may not only contribute towards this happy event by our good wishes: We whose names are hereunto subscribed, have voluntarily and readily associated ourselves, and do most heartily unite in the defence of your Majesty's Person and Government, and in the mutual support of each other, to the hazard of our lives and fortunes, against all domestic Rebels and foreign Invaders: And we do jointly and severally oblige ourselves to carry this association into execution, in such a manner and under such Regulations, as your Majesty shall please to direct.

November 21. 1745.

was made to introduce Irish worsted, which met with the same strenuous opposition from the wool-combers, it had done on a former occasion, who abandoned their work, removed the pads\* from the combing shops, and, having left their employers, they subsisted on the proceeds of their respective clubs, hoping to force the merchants and serge makers into a compliance with their unreasonable demands. Things remained in this state until the combers fund was nearly exhausted, and without any apparent agreement, letters were dropped about the town, threatening to murder some of the merchants and burn their houses.

A. D.

1749.

Under circumstances so fatal to peace and prosperity, the authorities applied for, and obtained, the protection of some military, which arrived in Tiverton accordingly.

The town remained in a quiet state for some time, when by accident a party of wool-combers, and weavers meeting, a violent disturbance ensued, and the mayor, (Clement Govett, Esq.) attempted in vain to read the riot act. The military were called out, the riot act again read, and the opposing parties dispersed, but peace was not restored.

It is evident that the evils here complained of, and which led to such serious results, existed chiefly in the unruly prejudices of the wool-combers themselves, as it was believed by those of most experience

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\* An instrument of iron, on which the comb is fixed, whilst the wool is being drawn out.

A. D. 1749. in the trade, that five packs of Irish wool might have been manufactured weekly to the great advantage of the weaver and merchant, without any injury whatever to the comber; for the latter depended on the Dutch serge-trade, and the Irish worsted was not suited to that manufacture, as before stated.\*

The fairest terms of accommodation were offered by the merchants and serge-makers, to the extent that the Irish manufactured worsted should not exceed twenty pieces a week, and even that should be discontinued on its being proved injurious to the wool-comber, by lessening the Dutch serge trade. They promised, at the same time, to keep within the town, so much of the work, usually sent to the country villages, as might be required to keep the town workmen in constant employ. These liberal and conciliatory terms were rejected; the wool-combers declaring their determination to abolish the Irish worsted altogether. The merchants, properly remained firm, and in the end many of the wool-combers and their families quitted Tiverton to seek employment elsewhere, some for weeks, others for months; but all in the end, returned to their work, but not until the trade had suffered considerable injury from the delay in the execution of many orders.¶

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\* See page 62.

¶ This account is taken from a letter signed, 'A. Newte,' inserted in the general Evening Post, 28th December, 1749. See also, "the

In July 1750, the celebrated John Wesley, one of the principal supporters of a sect called Methodists† of which he was the founder, and from whence they derive their title of Wesleyans, first came to Tiverton as a public preacher.§ He exercised his vocation in the open air, and in several parts of the town, but chiefly in the court of the corn market. In September, 1751, however, it being the anniversary of Blundell's school, a number of gentlemen's servants, preceded by a fife and drum, and followed by a concourse of people, came on John Wesley, who was addressing a large assemblage in the corn market, and interrupted him so much he was obliged to desist; and he

A. D.  
1750.

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Tiverton Wool comber's defence," supposed to have been written by Mr. Daddo, head master of Blundell's school, and printed in London, 1750. The writer however appears to have been a man possessing extremely ultra opinions. There is also a notice of these events in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. 20.

In consequence of the disorderly state of some of the manufacturing labourers in Tiverton, at this period, a clause, called the combination clause, introduced into an act of parliament 22. George 2nd, c. 27, 1749, rendering it felony to ill-treat, destroy, or injure either person or property, under pain of seven years transportation; or if any workman should be convicted of combining, under the influence of any bye-laws, rules or orders made at any unlawful club or clubs, &c. to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, to hard labour, for any term, not exceeding three months. This law was repealed by the 6. George 4th, c. 129, July 6th, 1825.

† The term "Methodist," is derived from the systematic arrangement which Wesley, and his followers made of their time, rising at four, and carrying out the most precise forms which they daily practised with the utmost regularity.

§ Wesley's elder brother was master of Blundell's school many years, and died in 1736.



- A. D. 1751. was himself removed, by the assistance of a gentleman, to prevent his receiving personal injury. This circumstance was followed by continual annoyances, and Wesley's followers were frequently subject to abusive language in the streets; neither was his preaching at all popular among the higher ranks of life.\* In this stage of the dispute, some persons induced a Clergyman of the Church of England named Wood or Ward, (who is described as of dissolute habits,) to preach against him, but his language was so coarse, and his conduct so reprehensible, that it was productive of much more

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\* Two rather ludicrous circumstances, have been recorded, as occurring at this period, and copied from Dunsford's history. The mayor of Tiverton being in company, asked Mr. Dunsford's informant who sat near him, whether he did not think "the Methodees" ought to be driven from the town, or at least be prevented from preaching their nonsensical stuff in Tiverton? "I would advise you Mr. Mayor," replied he, to follow Gamaliel's advice to the Jews, and leave them and their religion alone. "What Sir," said the mayor, "do you consider we have any occasion for a new religion in Tiverton? You know there's the Old Church, and New Church, that's one religion. Then there's Parson Kiddell's, at the Pitt meeting; Parson Westcote's in Peter street; and old Parson Terry's at the Baptist meeting. Four ways of going to Heaven already! enough in conscience, I think! and if they wont go to Heaven by one or other of these ways, by God they shan't go to Heaven at all herefrom, while I am mayor of Tiverton."

A Methodist preacher named Wild-bore, was distinguished about this time by his active zeal to gain proselytes in Halberton, Sampford, and other places in the neighbourhood of Tiverton. Two gentlemen, who were displeased at this, applied to Mr. Henley, rector of Uplowman, justice of the peace, to join them in putting him down. He replied, "I have read in the new Testament that St. Paul fought with wild beasts at Ephesus; and if two of you cannot fight with one Wildbore, by God I will not help you."

harm than good. The supporters of Wood finding their purpose fail, a different course was pursued. Indictments were preferred at the Sessions, against different persons for assault, holding conventicles, &c; but they were declared by the recorder, (Richard Parminter, Esq.) illegal, and the subject dropped.

A. D.

1751.

During the next year Mrs. Enchmarch\* and her sons introduced into Tiverton, the manufacture of Norwich stuffs, camblets, tarborates, damasks, plain and figured barroques, lutestrings, calimancoes, tarbines, brocade-damasks, figured druggets, &c. The finer goods, made of Irish worsted, were dyed with the most brilliant colors and in great variety of shades;† which furnished full employment for near two hundred persons of all ages; and several houses in Bampton street were converted into workshops, and many more were occupied at their own houses. The new trade induced the inhabitants to look forward with hope to brighter days; but it was the will of Providence to order it otherwise, as in 1761 the trade was suddenly

1752.

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\* One of Mrs. Enchmarch's sons, accompanied by a weaver named Perkins, went to Norwich, where the trade was principally carried on, and remained there a considerable time to make themselves acquainted with these woollen manufactures, and about the time they had effected their purpose, their object was detected, and they escaped with their lives.

† Martin Dunsford, serge maker, (the father of the Author,) an ingenious manufacturer, superintended this department for many years and dyed all the colors, except the vat blue and green, in his own house. He was the first who dyed scarlet woollen cloth in Tiverton.

A. D. stopped, previously to its final close a few weeks  
1752. afterwards, to the great distress of many hundred persons.

1753. On the 12th of October, 1753, the Lowman rose to a greater height than had ever been remembered which was particularly memorable for the following distressing circumstance. Mr. John Hurford, a respected serge-maker of Tiverton, in attempting to ride on horseback through the water, was unfortunately carried away by the current, and his life was sacrificed, although every exertion was used to effect his rescue, and his body was not recovered until some hours after. He was deeply regretted by all classes of persons.

1754. Early in 1754, a general election being shortly expected, some of the lower orders were informed, (it is said by a Mr. Ballaman, an attorney then resident in Tiverton,) that they had a right to participate with the corporation in the election of members of parliament. Sir Dudley Ryder, grandfather to the present Earl of Harrowby, then solicitor general, and shortly afterwards lord chief justice of England, was at that time one of the members for Tiverton. They endeavoured by letter to convince him their claim was just, and urged his support to it. They informed him, at the same time, of their determination to exercise a right of which they had been unjustly deprived.

As soon therefore as parliament was dissolved

the clubs and others had daily meetings to arrange the best means of accomplishing their object. Large bodies paraded the streets every evening, and the mayor, (Oliver Peard, Esq.) alarmed at the demonstration made by these misguided people,\* applied to the War Office for military assistance, and a troop of the Enniskillen Dragoons was in consequence sent to Tiverton, under the command of Lieutenant Suttie. This did not prevent the people from endeavoring to prevent the corporation, by force, from proceeding with the election, unless they had a participation in it.

A. D.

1754.

The day and time of returning the members had been kept secret, and on the 17th April, a false report was circulated that the election was then to take place. The common people assembled in the Church-yard and Works, from whence they marched in procession, to the number of 7 or 800, with the colours of their different societies, to the mayor's house in Fore street, to whom one of the party delivered a paper, but not receiving, what they considered, a satisfactory answer, and shewing a disposition to riot, it was considered desirable, to call out the military and read the riot act. The people however marched through Fore street to the Three Tuns, in front of which the

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\* Without wishing to remark on the justice, or otherwise, of that provision in the charter which confined the elective franchise to the corporation only, it is quite evident they had the exclusive right of returning members to parliament at that period.

- A. D. Dragoons were assembled, whom they saluted with  
1754. three hearty cheers and passed on.

After some further parade, and increase of numbers, and we collect from the account, disposition to riot, the military interfered, special constables were sworn in, and before the mob could be dispersed, some blood was shed, and many persons injured.\*

Mr. Dunsford in his memoirs, appears to draw a conclusion that the people were unjustly attacked, and that the parties injured, (one of which was Henry Woodrowffe, severely,) recovered money from the justice, Thomas Finnimore, esquire, and Lieutenant Suttie, the two principal actors in authority, to prevent more serious consequences. Be this as it may, amid these disorders the corporation quietly elected their two members, Nathaniel Thomas Ryder, and Henry Pelham, esquires.

1756. In 1756 the mills, dwelling-house, stable, and out-house, belonging to Mr. Thomas Cosway, at Bolham, were burnt to the ground, with about 300 serges and druggets, and the whole was consumed in less than three hours. The occasion of this fire was unknown.

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\* Some women are represented as having collared Lieutenant Suttie, and taken from him his sword, which he never recovered. It is also reported that he was overheard to tell the justice, "give me leave, Sir, to order the men to fire, and you shall see the fellows hop like peas." The whole account, however, which was received from several eye witnesses, is rather a particular one, and may have been exaggerated.

Several attempts were also made to discover Coal in the parish. A society was formed and a fund of £500 raised by fifty £10 shares, the whole of which was expended in sinking a shaft on Howden,\* about 150 feet deep, and a drain of equal length was made to draw off the water, but the speculation was not attended with success; neither as far as *real Coal* is concerned ought it to have been expected.† In the neighbourhood of Bradninch, one or two shafts were sunk with a similar hope and a portion of inferior Culm was discovered; but the object failed.

A. D.

1756.

In the month of January 1757, the Exe rose to so great a height in Westexe, that some mills were swept away by the torrent, and the inhabitants took refuge in the upper chambers, where they remained a considerable time in fear of their lives.

1757.

In 1758, turnpike roads were first commenced in the neighbourhood of Tiverton,‡ and a stone, placed, commemorative of this fact, with a date inscribed thereon, is at present near the wooden bridge at the commencement of Elmore, leading to the Rev. J. Ley's gate, that venerable and respected gentleman having rescued it from destruction some years since.

1758.

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\* Now the property of G. W. Owen, Esq. The shaft still remains open, and, as formerly, filled with water.

† Some Shropshire men were the chief workers in this speculation.

‡ See appendix, No. 20.

A. D.           The militia raised in the parish of Tiverton, as  
1758.           already stated, in 1691, was this year called out  
for service; and they marched from Tiverton  
5th July.

1760.           The position of the woollen trade, to which  
the prosperity of Tiverton had been entirely owing,  
was at this time productive of much anxiety.  
Trade had gradually declined, and the establish-  
ment of the mixed serge manufacture at Wellington,  
drained the Town of many of its useful inhabitants.

The state of England at the death of George 2nd, presented to Europe an era of great National prosperity; and although the evils of an inglorious war had been severely felt, yet the splendid successes which crowned the British Arms towards the termination of this reign,—the extension of commerce and manufacture,—the promotion of useful arts,—the progress of literature,—and the embellishment of social life, marked the death of George 2nd, as the termination of a great and brilliant career.

The trade of Tiverton unhappily did not bear any share in this prosperity, for between 1740 and 1770, we find the population had decreased about 1800, and its manufacture in a similar proportion.

A great sensation was created in Tiverton this year, in consequence of the death of Mr. Oliver Peard, who had conducted a very extensive woollen manufactory, for many years; and the temporary

check which it occasioned to trade was the cause of considerable apprehension, fearing no one could be found to take the place of a person of so much influence.\*

A. D.

1764.

At this period there appear to have been three vacancies among the capital burgesses, occasioned by the death of Mr. John London, Mr. John Veysey, and Mr. Oliver Peard, all of whom died in 1764; and the woollen manufacturers, imagining the trade of Tiverton would be much benefited by the election of Mr. Charles Baring, (a rich Exeter merchant,) to one of these vacancies, who had promised, if successful, to carry on an extensive woollen trade, waited on the mayor, (Mr. John Webber, a respectable merchant residing at Bolham,) requesting him to assemble the corporation, for the purpose of supplying the vacancies in question, which he promised to do; at the same time it was said a majority of that body had engaged to vote for Mr. Baring.

As this meeting did not take place, according to promise, on the 12th of June, a large mob composed of men and women, followed the mayor through the streets to the Angel Inn, which they surrounded, and breaking into the house through the windows, particularly some women, by threats and gross insults, and being in fear of his life, he was induced to sign a paper declaring his intention

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\* It was not known at this time, that Mr. Peard's family would carry on the business, which they afterwards did.



- A. D. of calling a common hall, within eight days, for  
 1764. the purpose of election, and promised to vote for  
 Mr. Baring. From the mayor, the mob proceeded  
 to many other members of the corporation, whom  
 1765. they obliged by threats, and insults, to sign the  
 paper in question. Notices were issued for a com-  
 mon hall, to be held on Monday 17th June, at ten  
 o'clock in the forenoon, to elect three capital  
 burgesses.

As the mayor did not feel himself bound by a  
 promise extorted from him in so violent a manner,  
 and being opposed to the election of Mr. Baring,\*  
 he directed the town clerk to withdraw the notices  
 on the evening previous to the day of meeting ;†

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\* The reasons assigned by the mayor and his party for not calling  
 a hall at this time, as he had promised, were, that Mr. Baring had ex-  
 pressed his intention of having his brother and another friend elected to fill  
 the two other vacancies, and consequently were in fear of falling as much  
 under the controul of one man as before the death of Mr. Peard. He is  
 also represented as aspiring to become Receiver General of the taxes for  
 the County of Devon, or to be elected member for the borough ; and that  
 most injurious effects to the woollen trade had already been experienced by  
 a merchant being receiver of the land tax, ( Samuel Burrigge Esq. in 1731,) as it  
 gave him the command of large sums of money, and enabled him to  
 monopolize the trade. Some of the persons thus concerned, and against  
 whom warrants were issued, must have absented themselves for a con-  
 siderable time, which appears by the following notice from the Clerk of  
 Assize, addressed "to the Constable of the Hundred, &c,"—requiring them  
 to "apprehend the bodies of Elizabeth Saunders, late of the parish of  
 Tiverton, spinster, and John Doe, who stand indicted for an assault on  
 John Webber, mayor, of the borough of Tiverton."

J. FOLLETT, Clerk of  
 Assize,  
 dated 18 March 1771.

† The following is a copy of the note sent by the mayor to

and observing strong demonstrations of violence and disorderly conduct among the manufacturers, he applied to the Secretary at War for military aid, and left the town until its arrival. Two hundred of the 23rd Regiment, or Welsh Fuzileers, marched into Tiverton on the 18th, but much mischief was effected in the mean time.

A. D.

1765.

On Monday, 17th, sixteen members of the corporation attended at the Town hall, the greater portion of whom were prepared to vote for Mr. Baring, but as the mayor was absent, they could not proceed to the election.

The labourers were riotous and disorderly to a very great extent, and more than 300 persons assembled, first in the Corn market, and afterward in the Churchyard where they drank a quantity of cyder, and had they found the mayor,\* would have forced him to the town-hall, and obliged his voting for Mr. Baring; but not being able to do so, they proceeded to his house at Bolham, and after breaking ten windows, they burst open the doors, and

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the town clerk.

Bolham June 16. 1765.

" Sir.

I desire you will immediately recall the notices that have been given out to the gentlemen of the Corporation, requiring their attendance, to fill the corporation on Munday, by 10 o'clock, as I am obliged to be out of Town; and bring me fresh notices to be delivered out when I return to hold the Court on Tuesday next,

John Webber, Mayor."

\* They forcibly searched several houses in the town for the mayor, and offered a reward for his discovery, after it was too late to proceed with the election, which must be before twelve o'clock.

A. D. entered the house which they much injured, and  
1765. demolished his furniture. His garden was left a wilderness, and after breaking five cloth racks, they almost entirely destroyed a large weir on the river Exe, 300 feet long and 20 wide, which conducted water to some fulling mills belonging to him. They afterwards attacked the houses of many of Mr. Webber's tenants, and threw threatening letters about the village of Bolham.\*

Other outrages were committed on different members of the corporation; threatening notices were sent to those who refused to vote for Mr. Baring, and labourers were prevented working for them. By these means several persons sustained great injury, which continued for some time after the election.

The mayor again issued his notices for a common hall on the 1st of July, to fill up the vacancies which had occasioned so much riot and confusion; the majority at this time being against Mr. Baring.

On the 30th of June, therefore, the town was in great confusion. The labourers were still desirous that Mr. Baring should be elected, and a report prevailed that many thousands would join the combers and weavers the next morning, to enforce his election. This, however, was not the

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\* One of these disgraceful papers, ran as follows. "If any person shall lay any information against any person or persons when the northern storm fell at Bolham, destruction, yea inevitable ruin shall attend them, God damy."

case, and the three vacancies were filled up accordingly\* ; but finding Mr. Baring was not one of them, the common people were much incensed, and a large body attacked the town hall with showers of stones, whilst the corporation were in it. They broke the windows, and assaulted the mayor, and those members of the corporation who had voted contrary to their wishes, pelting them as they passed through the streets to their respective habitations.

A. D.

1765.

On the 2nd of July, John and Francis Lock, two of the persons concerned in the attack on the mayor's house at Bolham, were apprehended, and ordered to be committed to the County gaol under a guard of 10 constables, and 24 soldiers. A great number of persons assembled with an evident intention of rescuing the prisoners ; on which, at the request of the officers, the mayor determined on accompanying them out of the town. As they proceeded, the populace riotously surrounded them, declaring the prisoners should not be conveyed to Exeter ; one Robert Gooding went so far as to curse the mayor and collar him, whilst many stones were thrown at the guards. He was taken into

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\* The vacancies were filled by John Duntze, esquire, a merchant in Exeter, George Lewis, and Richard Enchmarch ; eleven members voting for these gentlemen, and ten for Mr. Baring. The corporators who voted for Mr. Duntze, exercised a wise discretion, by introducing into their town a gentleman of unblemished reputation ; and whose good judgment, and social habits, obtained for him that influence so justly due ; and while it added materially to the happiness of a well chosen society, it tended considerably to promote the public good.

A. D.  
1765.

custody for the attempt at rescue, and committed to prison with the others. This was about nine o'clock in the evening; and the people seeing the guard resolved to perform their duty, a portion of them retired, whilst others ran forward to Silvertown, through which the prisoners were to pass, and raised the labouring people of the town against them; therefore, on their arrival the inhabitants declined admitting them, and they were refused refreshments even at the public houses, and the constables had to remain in the street all night, beaten and wounded, and in danger of their lives. In the mean time the soldiers, who had halted at the head of the town, on learning the obstruction they were likely to find, conveyed the prisoners by a circuitous rout through the fields, to Exeter, under cover of night, and lodged them in gaol early on the following morning. At the Assizes, which took place about a month after, they were tried, and sentenced to pay a fine of 13s. 4d. each, and be imprisoned six months.\*

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\* A paper of a very infamous nature was the subject of the following order of vestry, dated July 21st, 1765. "Whereas an anonymous letter without any date was yesterday found in the garden belonging to the dwelling house of Mr. George Cruwys of Tiverton aforesaid threatening to Fire his house or Murder him if he did not put the sum of 12 guineas under his back door between the hours of 12 and 2 to help the Prisoners"—

"Ordered that application be forthwith made to one of the Secretary's of State to request his Majesty's pardon to any Accomplice or Accomplices of the person that write and placed the letter in the said Garden or to any other person, or persons that will discover the Author or writer of the said letter so that he, she, or they may be convicted thereof ( Excepting the person who write and dropt the same. And it is likewise ordered that

A. D.  
1765.

Warrants were also issued to apprehend several of the common people of Tiverton, for a riot, and an assault on the mayor; which obliged these men to leave their families, and kept them and others in painful suspense for a long time. These warrants, and the punishment of some of the rioters had the effect of depressing their spirits, and taught them to bear greater respect to the laws, and prevented any outrage being committed in the town for many years after.

When mutual recrimination exists, it is generally impossible to say to which party the greater blame ought to be attached. On the one hand, the mayor is charged with negotiating on both sides, to make the most profitable bargain for himself, and that Mr. Baring had not come up to his price; and as for the receivership, it was well known, they said, that the bribe which the corporation obtained for their influence, was, an annuity of £80, and a pipe of Port wine yearly. They also stated that one of the friends of Mr. Baring, Mr. Prince, an officer in the army, had been called away to prevent his voting. On the other hand the mayor and his party accused their opponents of bribing the common people with money and liquor, both now and at other times, to induce the adoption of violent measures. The conduct pursued was certainly of a most disgraceful nature, on the part of the lower classes;

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the Church-Wardens should pay such person or persons as aforesaid the sum of £50, which said Money to be paid again by the Parishioners.

A. D. (and if encouraged by any of the better orders,  
1765. words can hardly be found of sufficient force to deprecate such unworthy proceedings,) and is the strongest evidence of a bad cause. But on the other hand, if public men ever descend to blend personal advantage with the public good, and merge the duties they owe their Townsmen in private consideration, nothing can be said in extenuation of so grave an offence. Judging from the statements of both sides, however, it is only fair to observe, that although many errors may have been committed by the mayor and corporation, the larger weight of evils appears to lie on the other side.

1766. During the summer of 1766, the dwelling house of John Webber esquire, late mayor of Tiverton, was burnt to the ground; but whether by accident or intention is not stated. It occupied the site of Mr. Heathcoat's present residence at Bolham.

1767. On the 23rd March 1767, some Bye-laws were enacted and ordained by the mayor and burgesses of Tiverton, which, the same day, received the approval of Sir Henry Gold, knight, and James Hewitt, esquire, justices of assize for the County of Devon. The object of these laws was to preserve the Town Leat from injury or annoyance, and provided that if "any inhabitant or other person, shall at any time hereafter wash any clothes, wool, mops, or any other thing, in the lake, or stream of water, which cometh into and through

the streets of the said Town, and supplieth the Inhabitants with pott-water, commonly called the Town Lake; or shall commit any offence *near* the said Lake;" "or divert or turn the aforesaid Town Lake, or any part thereof, out of its right and ancient course, or in any manner obstruct the same, &c." shall, for every such offence forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding 6s. 8d., to be adjudged by the mayor; who shall apply such sums to the repair of the Town Lake. These penalties to be recovered by warrant of distress, or by action of debt in the Court of record of Tiverton\*.

A. D.  
1767.

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\* For the remainder of these Bye Laws, see appendix, No. 21.

The following warrant will form a curious contrast to the practice of present and former times.

*"Tiverton Liberty.*

*To the Constables, &c.*

These are in his Majesty's name, to will and require you to provide for and impress from any person or persons within the said liberty an able packhorse with a man to drive the same, wherewith to convey the Baggage of one Company of the *Northern Regiment* of the Devonshire Militia from Tiverton aforesaid, towards Winkley in the said County, making such allowance as the law directs. Hereof fail not, as also to make return at your peril.

B. DICKINSON, Esq.

Given &c.

Mayor.

2. June, 1770.

A commitment, having the signature of Henry Osmond, mayor, and George Cruwys, justice, was taken on the 9th of June this year, against Henry Hooper, and William Symons, under the combination clause passed in 1749, on the oath of Robert Rippon, for being, or having been members of the Journeymen Weavers club, "did on the 13th of April last, act in and make a certain bye-law, rule or order of the aforesaid club to the intent that no Master or Journeyman



A. D.

1767.

It is a subject of deep regret that so little benefit is derived from these salutary laws at the present time, as the town lake has become a receptacle for every species of filth and dirt, at all times of the day; thus rendering this most valuable benefaction of comparative little advantage to the inhabitants.\*

1771.

In 1771 a new Clock was placed in the tower of St. Peter's Church, at a cost of £80. 19s. 7d.

At this time also, the tower of this venerable and beautiful building was declared, after due inspection, to be in danger from the river Exe, which had been gradually changing its course for many years, and now washed the foot of the hill underneath the Churchyard wall, and an order of Vestry to that effect, (August 7th,) was made accordingly.

1772.

In the two succeeding years of 1772 and 1773 the following bridges were built, or repaired, either entirely or partly only, by order of Vestry, at the

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Weaver should or shall take any Girl to be an apprentice in the Art of weaving." Also, a certain other contract, to the effect "that no Journeyman Weaver should or shall, work for any Master, Weaver, or Sergemaker, within the Liberty that employed, or should employ the said Robert Rippon in the business of weaving &c." and that these parties did, on the day named, and at divers other times, attempt to carry these bye-laws into effect, for which they were committed to the common gaol for three months.

\* Some idea may be formed of the price of provisions about 1769, by an entry in a mss. journal of Mr. Martin Dunsford's, wherein he states the price of a Turkey at 2s., Chickens 6d. each, Ducks 11d., Woodcocks 1s., snipes 2d., cream 7½d. and 8d.

cost and charges of the parish of Tiverton.

A. D.

The stone bridge of two arches over the river Lowman at the east end of the town, was widened, repaired, and nearly rebuilt, at a cost of £59. 15s. 2d. previous to which it was only a horse bridge.

1772.

Bickleigh bridge of five arches, over the river Exe, was extensively repaired, at the expense of the parish, previously to which there is reason to believe, it was only a horse bridge.

The stone bridge of two arches, over the river Lowman, at the south end of Saint Andrew street, was built by Thomas Winsloe, esquire, of Collipriest, towards the cost of which the parish of Tiverton gave £20., and 5s. per annum for twenty years.

1773.

The stone bridge at Cove, over the river Exe, was repaired at the joint expense of the parish of Tiverton, and hundred of Witheridge, at a cost of £27.

This year also, some soldiers of the 31st Regiment, having formerly been Cornish miners, were induced to try in a garden, behind a house in Fore street, (then occupied by a Mr. John Bryant,) to discover, if possible, the direction of a subterraneous passage which was known to have passed from the Castle to some portion of the Town, and generally believed to be in that direction; but after a fruitless search to the depth of 30 feet, they discovered some lumps of tin ore, which were seen

A. D. by many of the inhabitants.\*

1776. In 1776 the organ in the parish Church was put in thorough repair, by Paul Micheau, at an expense of £300.†

1778. In 1778, the opinion of Sergeant Glynn was taken, by some of the inhabitants of Tiverton, respecting their charter. The case consisted of five queries which in substance was, whether the right of voting at elections was vested in the mayor and corporation only; or if the right was, by the charter, extended to the inhabitants, whether long usage forfeited their claim; lastly, if the corporation of any other towns exercised a similar privilege, and what steps he would recommend them to pursue in this case. His reply was, that "the grant of franchise is to the inhabitants, and if the charter had stopped there, it would have been

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\* I mention the above circumstance because it has been so stated by Mr. Martin Dunsford, but it is evident that their military duties did not quite remove their Cornish tricks, as the discovery of metal under such circumstances has often been practised with varying success.—Had these well selected specimens produced the effect of deluding the good people of Tiverton into taking shares, and entering on a mining speculation, it would doubtless have been of advantage to some of their Cornish brethren, as long as it lasted. The author remembers once to have heard that a piece of cheese was attached to a specimen of lead, under similar circumstances, near Ilfracombe, but this ridiculous occurrence of course detected the imposition.

† Mr. Micheau was appointed by the parish to keep the Organ in repair at a Salary of £10., which was by order of vestry 15th October, 1783, reduced to £6. 6s.; an office which he held for many years.

an incorporation of all the inhabitants; but the establishment is of two burgesses to be elected by the mayor, capital burgesses, and assistants, and a franchise may be granted to a large community to be exercised by a select part." He did not consider long usurpation would destroy a right, although usage has great force in the construction of any thing doubtful in our circuit charter; and concluded by saying there were many other towns of a similar constitution, and considered the expense of litigation in this instance would be entirely thrown away.

A. D.

1778.

The opinion is signed "John Glynn,"  
August 23rd, 1778.

The following extract is from "Jones's index to the Records," Vol. 2.

1781.

"The claim of the Mayor, Capital Burgesses, and assistants of the Town and parish of Tiverton in the County of Devon, to fines, issues, forfeitures, and other matters, set, lost, imposed, forfeited, or incurred by persons resident in the said Town and parish, the liberties or precincts of the same, allowed, confirmed, and inrolled." Hilary term, 21, George 3rd, Roll. The above passage relates to a provision in the charter of George 1st., by which certain "fines, issues, forfeitures, and other matters,\* were vested in the mayor, and capital

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\* The following are the words of the charter, (see No, 31, appendix 17,) on which these fines &c., were orderly claimed. "All fines, Redemptions, and Amerciaments whatsoever, for Trespasses and other Offences

A. D. 1781. burgesses; but by neglect or otherwise, for many years this right had not been exercised. The body corporate, therefore, considered it a necessary duty about fifty or sixty years since, to make application for its restoration. This appeal was granted, but as considerable expense attended the recovery, the mayor and corporation after paying £80, felt unable or unwilling to satisfy a further demand of £60, by which the original sum was forfeited and the whole fell to the ground. This right was restored to the town under a provision of the reform bill.

1782. A few years after the franchise question, as stated above,† a public meeting was held in the Church house and yard, consisting of a numerous and respectable assemblage, for the purpose of petitioning parliament to extend the elective franchise to the inhabitants at large. Mr. Martin Dunsford was called to the Chair, who read the Petition,\* and it appears to have been carried

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whatsoever, or other Cause and Matters committed within the said Town, &c. And all Penalties, Forfeitures, Fines, Redemptions, and Amerciaments forfeited by any of the Capital Burgesses, Assistants, Inhabitants and residents of the same, are granted to the said Mayor and Burgesses, to be levied by their Officers without the Hindrance of the King, his Heirs or Successors, the Sheriffs, Justices, or other Officers Commissioners, or Ministers whatsoever of the said King, his Heirs or Successors," Jones's index. Vol. 1.

† November 28th, 1782.

\* The following is a copy of the petition.

"To the honorable the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled."





with little opposition, and was presented to the House by Alderman Townsend, Member for Calne, and ordered to lie on the Table, with other petitions of a similar tendency.

A. D.

1782.

In 1783 the Market Cross, (erected at the sole cost and charges of Mr. Upcott, merchant, soon after the fire of 1731 as before stated,) was taken down; also the flesh and fish shambles, which extended from the Market cross, nearly in the middle of Fore street, to almost opposite the east end of St. George's chapel yard.

1783.

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The humble petition of the Gentlemen, Merchants, Trades, and Manufacturers, inhabitants of the borough of Tiverton, in the County of Devon,  
sheweth,

"That your Petitioners have been deprived of the great privilege of being represented in Parliament; that a corporation of 24 men only (many of them non-residents and placemen chosen by themselves) elect two representatives for this borough, containing upwards of 5000 inhabitants; an exclusive advantage, of which there are few (if any) examples besides in the kingdom.

"Your Petitioners most humbly beg leave to observe, that a representation so confined and disproportioned, is not only injurious to themselves, but a great natural grievance; insufficient to procure in future the blessings of a free Constitution, and unlikely to speak the voice of the people

"Your Petitioners do therefore earnestly intreat *this* House to consider the subject of this Petition, in humble confidence that this House will seriously attend to their complaint, and grant them such redress, in common with their fellow subjects throughout the kingdom, as the wisdom of *this* honorable House shall approve.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

This petition was signed by 91 freeholders; 370 freemen, housekeepers; and 20 freemen not housekeepers; amounting to 481 persons.

T



A. D.

1783.

In consequence of the loss occasioned by the issues and profits arising from the removal of the Shambles and Market Cross, the proceeds of which were appropriated to charitable uses and public benefit, a Liberty rate was made with a hope of supplying the deficiency; but as the rate was evidently formed on illegal principles, and doubtless weighing unequally on personal interests, sundry appeals were made against it; and meeting with resistance on the part of the parish, the subject was ultimately placed in the ecclesiastical Court, which led to its being quashed in 1784, by order of the general quarter Sessions for the Liberty, and a new rate directed to be made.

The 8th November this year, articles of agreement were entered into for the formation of a society to be called "the Fuller's Friendly Society." By the rules, each member was to pay eight pence; two pence of which was to be spent by the president in "Ale and Necessaries." They also provided, "that the Societies flag should have the Fuller's arms painted on one side, and His Majesty George the 3rd. on the other." "That the Beadle shall have a Cloak, laced Hat, and a long staff with the Fuller's Arms painted thereon, to use and wear when he shall walk before this Society at any public rejoicing, and at Church on the 29th day of May in each year, or otherwise at the command and direction of the present Steward and Committee." "That this Society shall provide

a Scarlet Cloak trimmed with fur for the president to wear when he joins the procession on rejoicing days. Also, two staffs with the Fuller's Arms to be painted thereon for the Stewards, and six long white rods for the Committee to bear on rejoicing days, and to be arranged in the following order. The Beadle, the Steward, the Flag bearer, the President, the Committee 3 and 3, the Society by pairs, and the Clerk last. For the performance of these articles, 17 in number, each member was to be bound in a penalty of £50.

A. D.

1783.

This year died George Davey, esquire, a lineal descendant of John Davey, who with J. Barnfield, were the two first burgesses returned to parliament for the borough of Tiverton, under the charter of January 1st, in 1616. He married a daughter of John Rich, esquire, of Upplowman, and died 17th December, leaving an only daughter and heiress Bridget, who married Captain John Hamilton, of Gawiston, in the County of Fermanagh, of the 61st regiment of infantry, who died at Lisbon, 1780, leaving three daughters, and one son, the present Colonel Hamilton, late of the Coldstream Guards, who is the representative of this respected family. This Davey sprung from an ancient stock called originally De la Way, or Dewy, which appears to have given name to their place of residence, Barters Way, alias Way, in the parish of Torrington, North Devon. One of the Daveys of Exeter married Margaret, a daughter of George Southcot,

1784.

A. D. of Calverley, from whence the Daveys of Tiverton  
1784. doubtless came.

1785. On Saturday May 14th, a fire broke out in the house of Matthew Marshall, a mason, residing in South street, Westex, which destroyed 47 houses, besides outhouses and stables, and 8 others were removed to check the progress of the flames. It commenced about ten in the evening, and was not thoroughly got under until three in the morning, occasioning an estimated loss of £2000. The expenses attending this fire have been given by Martin Dunsford, as amounting to £59. 3s. 10d.; which sum was defrayed by the different Insurance companies, a practice that had been acted on before, with advantage to themselves, and benefit to others.

On the 1st of June a vestry meeting was held, at the request of the Churchwarden, (Martin Dunsford,) for the purpose of establishing various Sunday schools, not only belonging to the Church of England establishment, but in all places of public worship. This object was effected by voluntary subscriptions, and nine schools, comprehending the religious instruction of 240 Children, were thus formed.

The Committee consisted of the following members, the whole of whom remained in office several years.—Richard Blundell, esquire, president; Rev. Henry Land, vice president, and Mr. Follett, minister of the Independent chapel, treasurer;

William Lewis, Rev. John Pitman, Martin Dunsford  
Nicholas Dennis, esquire, George Dunsford, William  
Besly, William Smale, and John Ward.\*

A. D.

1785.

1788.

On Wednesday 14th May, about two in the afternoon, a fire broke out in the house of Moses Carter, a baker, on the west side of Peter street, which consumed about twenty dwellings.† Providentially, as the wind was at north east, the flames were directed over the river Exe, otherwise there is much probability a great part of the town would have been destroyed. It commenced at a house in Peter street, close to the Churchyard gate, and consumed the ten following houses. Mr. Martin Dunsford states the expence of this fire to the Insurance company as rewards for active exertions &c., at £51. 8s. 2d.

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\* Messrs. Dunsford and Barne's bank was first open, under the firm of Dickinson, Lewis, Bealey and Son, 1st January, 1787.

† In addition to the numerous fires before mentioned, as having occurred in the parish of Tiverton, we regret to state an account of many others, but happily of a minor description. In 1738, ten houses were burnt in St. Andrew street, commencing at the new Church; and the next year, ten others, in the same direction, occasioned by a man setting on fire some portion of a woman's dress, which was hanging out to dry. In 1751, ten or twelve poor dwellings were consumed in Elmore. In 1753, the house and offices in Coldharbour were destroyed, in consequence of a furze house being struck with lightning. In 1761, April 1st, the house of John Pearse, dyer, was burnt at the end of Gold street. In May, 1762, a fire broke out on Angel hill, which by dint of exertions was got under after twenty houses had been consumed; besides some few others of a still minor description.

A. D.

1788.

A contract was entered into, by Mr. Martin Dunsford, as churchwarden, with Matthew Marshall, dated 10th May, for building a bridge over the Little Exe, at Bickleigh, which amounted to £27. 12s.; previous to which it appears to have been constructed only of wood.

1790.

During the early part of this year many meetings of Delegates were held, both at Tiverton and Exeter, for the purpose of petitioning parliament for a repeal of the corporation and test acts. These acts were passed after the restoration, more with a design of averting the threatened danger from Popish influence, than arising from any wish to controul the principles of Protestant dissenters. In 1787, a motion was made for their repeal, which was lost by a majority of 73; and on the subject being renewed in 1789, the majority was reduced to 20. In the year 1790, the principles of the French revolution were strongly agitated in parliament; Pitt, Burke, Fox, and Sheridan, the eloquent leaders of their respective parties, taking a conspicuous part in the discussion. These differences of opinion spread throughout the kingdom, and the subject was agitated with a spirit of hostility even more acrimonious than that which prevailed during the American war.

These feelings were aggravated by a renewed attempt to gain a repeal of the corporation and test acts. The zeal exhibited by the dissenting party had induced them to hold public meetings at which

they entered into resolutions, and in many instances so violently expressed their support of the French revolution,\* that it proved of great injury to their cause, and led to the result, that when the subject was again agitated by Mr. Fox, March 2nd, it was lost by a decided majority of 189.

A. D.  
1790.

At this time was also revived, after an omission of more than 30 years, a meeting of gentlemen educated at Blundell's school, in celebration of its anniversary, and it has been continued without interruption, to the present day. On this occasion, August 9th, eighty nine gentlemen who had been educated at the school, assembled on the green; and being there joined by some of the trustees, the masters, preacher, (the Rev. R. Keats, upper master of the school) and the boys, consisting of 105, then under instruction, walked two and two to Church, and returned in the same order. The gentlemen dined at the Tuns, and there was a ball at the Angel in the evening.†

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\* One of the strongest supporters of these meetings in Tiverton, on being invited to subscribe towards the French emigrant clergy, who were at that time in great distress, said "that he declined on account of universal benevolence, believing the priests to have stirred up a violent opposition to the cause of the revolution in France, which in his opinion would be productive of the greatest good, and promote the happiness of mankind." May 1793. Such principles could only be expressed by a confirmed revolutionist; and yet it is but just to observe, that the author of them had the character of a conscientious, and charitable man, of regular and religious habits, and respected by his neighbours.

† In 1725, the first celebration of the anniversary of Blundell's school, a Sermon was preached by the Rev. Samuel Newte, M. A. rector of Tidcombe, which was dedicated to Rev. Mr. Rayner, master of Tiverton

A. D.  
1790.

On the 24th of January, about twelve o'clock, an effigy of Tom Paine, author of the "Rights of Man," "Age of Reason," and other seditious and blasphemous publications, was drawn through the town in a cart, dressed in Canonical costume, and supported by a man on each side. A mock trial took place on Oat-hill,† and about three o'clock, the same

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school, and to his much honored friends and schoolfellows, Sir John Chichester, baronet, John Worth, esquire, Thomas Bolitho, esquire, the Rev. Mr. Thomas Worth, Canon Residentiary of St. Peter's, Exon, the Rev. Mr. Thomas Burrington, Robert Incedon, gent, Henry Cruwys, gent, and Henry Sandford, gent, stewards of Tiverton school feast for that year. The Sermon breathes in every part, the duties of piety and virtue ; and in the application of the words of his text, ("The words of the wise," &c., 12th Eccl. 11th verse,) to the principles of Education, and the advantages of knowledge, he draws from it a conclusion, that the cultivation of the mind, while it adorns the various duties of social life, directly tends to inculcate the principles of sound Religion, and the early practice of our duties both to God and man.

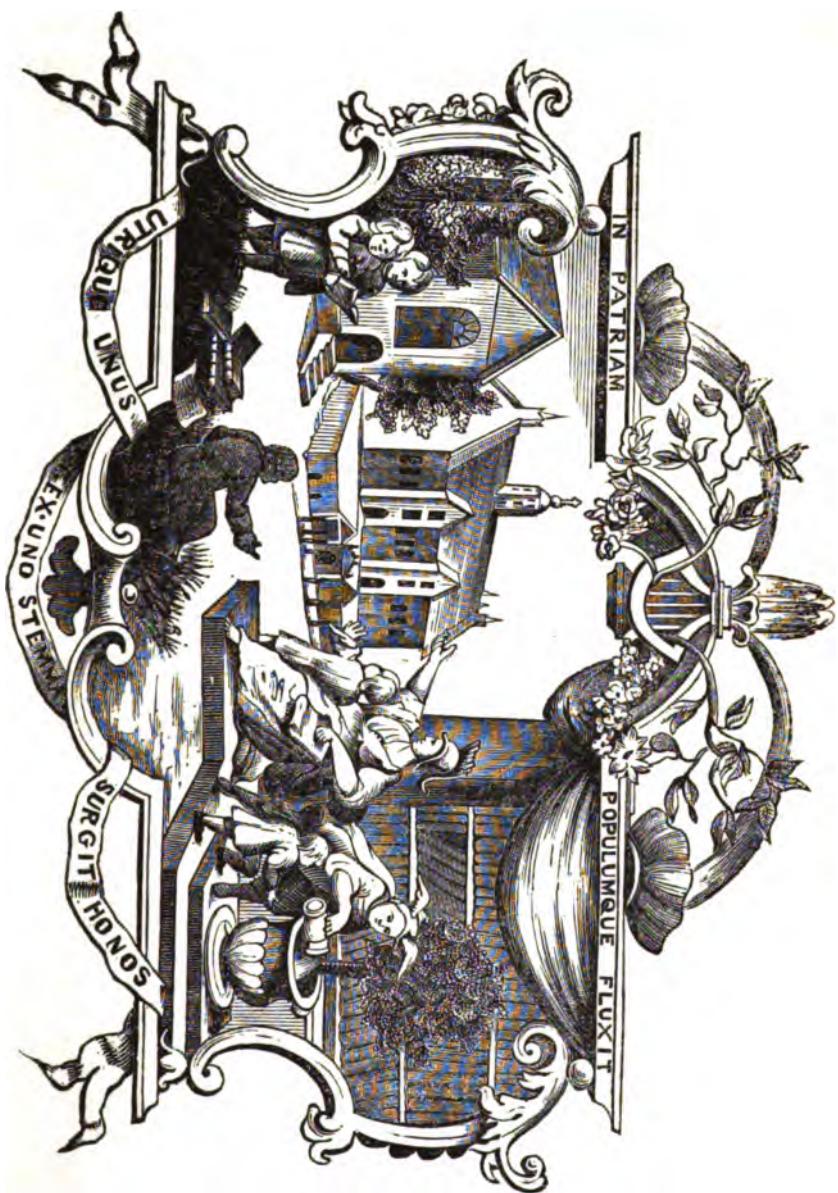
A Ticket of admission to this school was published by Hogarth, and is said to be one of his early productions ; but although the print itself bears the date 1740, it is not absolutely known to have been then produced, but much more likely was intended for the first celebration of this festival.

"The figure of Minerva, introduced in the fore ground, pointing to the building, is evidently an allusion to the following Latin lines, inscribed on a brass plate at the entrance of the building :

" Hospita disquirens Pallas Tritona sedem,  
Est Blundellinæ percita amore scholæ;  
Ascivit sedem; placuit cupiensq. foveri,  
Hospes, ait Petrus, qui mihi fautor, eris."

"I am informed," says Mr. Ireland, "by the Rev. Mr. Keates, the head master, that this plate was in common use, as an invitation card to an annual dinner of the Gentlemen educated at the school, and must consequently, have produced many impressions; yet, strange! it is now become scarce, although the most diligent search has been made after it." *Hogarth's Works. Vol. 2.*

† Angel hill, where the Oat market was formerly held.



TICKET FOR THE TIVERTON-SCHOOL FEAST, 1740.





effigy was again exhibited round the town, accompanied by a person representing a clergyman and a hangman; a gibbet, 12 feet high, was erected opposite the gate of St. George's chapel, and a mock execution was performed.† In the evening this effigy was burnt by some boys at Greenway.\*

A. D.

1793.

At this period, (*March*,) some traces of Culm were discovered in St. Andrew street, and on the 2nd of May following, several small pieces were said to have been produced, but nothing came of it.

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† Mr. Dunsford says that the bell was even tolled.

\* The flat ground below Howden, bordering on the Exeter road.

The evil effect of such display is evident, and therefore much to be regretted, in whatever degree the object may have called forth the condemnation of mankind. Tom Paine, who died in America, 1809, aged 72, had not a highly cultivated mind undoubtedly, but possessed abilities to raise himself far above the station in life, which by birth he was destined to fill; and the revolutionary principles which he imbibed and advocated at an early period, called forth the full exercise of a powerful but not refined mind, and was accompanied, as they generally are, by a total disregard of religious feelings; and when Mr. Cobbett in 1817, disinterred his bones, and brought them to England in the hope of arousing the dormant energies of the revolutionary party, he not only failed in his attempt, but drew on himself universal contempt. Tom Paine by his "Age of Reason" shocked the religious feelings of the whole Christian country, and alienated his friends both in England and America, exposing him to hatred and insult, which embittered the latter years of his existence. The publication of this work in England, drew from Lord Kenyon, the worthy and illustrious lord chief justice of the King's bench, in his charge to the jury, in 1797, on the trial of Wellins for disseminating so blasphemous a publication, this noble confession of faith, "I am fully impressed said this most able and upright Judge, with the great truths of religion, which, thank God, I was taught in my early years to believe, and which the hour of reflection and enquiry, instead of creating any doubt, has fully confirmed

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A. D.  
1793.

On the 30th April the line of Canal from Taunton to Topsham, with lateral lines to Wellington, Tiverton, and Cullompton, was surveyed, and on the 4th of June† following a plan and estimate produced by a Mr. Longbotham, amounting to £166,723. 17s. 9d., of which £22,229. 7s. was to be expended on the branches above named. This plan was adopted by the committee on the 16th of December following.

A large cotton manufactory was this year completed at the bottom of Westexe by Messrs. Dennis, Lardner, and others; in celebration of this event, a dinner\* was given by the parties at the mayoralty room, of which about fifty persons partook.‡

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me in." In reverting, for a moment to the effect of the French revolution, the opinion, so forcibly expressed by Mr. Burke, in parliament, paints this scene of anarchy and confusion in its true and brilliant colours; he says, "the French had shewn themselves the ablest architects of ruin that had hitherto appeared in the world. In one short summer they had completely pulled down to the ground their monarchy, their Church, their nobility, their laws, their army, and their revenue. Were we absolute conquerors, and France to lie prostrate at our feet, we should blush to impose upon them terms so destructive to all their consequence as a nation, as the duration they had imposed upon themselves." *Belsham, v. 17, p. 299.*

† The 4th of June being the anniversary of the Kings birthday, the Worcester militia, then quartered in Tiverton, paraded in the School green, and fired 'a feu de joie,' in honor of the occasion.

On the 16th of July, the weather was so extremely hot that the thermometer in a court facing the south at noon, stood at 110, and at two o'clock, in the shade, at 65.

\* September the 5th.

§ Mr. Martin Dunsford in his mss. journal says, there were four

It does not appear to have been ever used for the purpose of a cotton manufactory, but it was appropriated to the woollen trade until 1814.

A. D.

1794.

The effect of the French revolution on the woollen manufacture in England, now began to shew itself. The trade of Tiverton principally depended on its commercial intercourse with Holland, which was wholly interrupted, and at the settlement of the half year's poor rate, on the 28th of September, there was found an increase of £800 over the same period on any former occasion, proceeding entirely from the want of labour.‡

On the 31st of January, a distressing and melancholy accident happened, by which an honest and respectable shoemaker, named John Staddon, lost his life. He was standing in the passage of the White Horse in Gold street, conversing with a servant of Mr. Anstey, a farmer living at Beauchamp, who had sent him there for a fowling piece. An apprentice boy at the inn, unconscious of the gun being loaded, levelled and discharged it at them. The contents striking the servant in the cheek, carried off all the fore part of his upper and under jaws, teeth and lips, and otherwise injured his face: some shot or slugs then entering

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turbots, four haunches of venison, four necks ditto, ten brace of partridges, with abundance of other things in proportion, accompanied by a profusion of excellent wines.

‡ See appendix, No. 25.

- A. D. 1794. Mr. Staddon's temple, passed through his head and forcing out part of his brains, killed him on the spot. On observing the boy level the gun, he held up his hand, in which many of the scattered shot were lodged. The young man lay many days in great agony and in a doubtful state. He ultimately recovered, and resumed his former occupation. His death took place a short time since,\* having survived the accident about 45 years.

On the 4th of April was passed "an act for paving, and otherwise improving the town of Tiverton, in the County of Devon," setting forth the improper manner in which the town was paved and cleansed, and the number of obstructions and encroachments existing in different parts of the town to the annoyance and inconvenience of the public.† The direction and management of these improvements were left to certain commissioners named in the Act,‡ now called Paving Commissioners, with power to elect others as

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\* His name was Robin Stear, and he latterly resided at Bolham. His death took place about four years since, and although he was a common labourer, from provident habits he left property to the amount of £200.

† At that period there were buildings on angel hill, where the obelisk now stands, as well as the Churchyard wall of St. Peter's, on the south side, extending down Peter street, with many objectionable buildings in Westexe, (see plan of the town in 1777,) some of these buildings were not removed until 1807.

‡ See appendix, No. 26.

vacancies should occur, and the whole to be bound by an oath. The act further granted the commissioners power to remove the pound of the hundred and manor of Tiverton, situated at the lower end of Gold street, (now called pound-hill,) "and to lay the scite thereof into the public street or highway adjoining thereto, and to erect another such pound on the waste of the Lords of the Manor in Loman green, near the east end of the foot-bridge over the river Loman."†

A. D.

1794.

On the 30th of June a dreadful fire occurred between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, commencing in Humphrey Rendle's shop, a hot-presser in Westexe,‡ which being surrounded by thatched buildings, and the weather remarkably dry, with a strong south west wind, occasioned its spreading with fearful rapidity, by which both sides of Westexe, as far as Mr. Dennis's brick-house, now occupied by T. Hellings, esquire, the whole of Bridge street, and several dwellings in Wellbrooke were consumed. Many houses on Angel hill, extending to "the old Bow," adjoining Slee's alms-house, in Peter street, and some houses in Fore street, as far as Mr. Hodge's shop, then occupied by Mr. Wm. Dicken, ironmonger,

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† For a schedule of the buildings intended to be removed, and for which particular powers were granted by the act. See appendix, No. 26.

This year also the bridge over the Lowman was rebuilt, which appears previously to have been nothing more than a foot bridge.

‡ Where the Misses Carew's house at present stands.

- A. D. 1794. were also burnt, and the fire was arrested by removing the whole front of this building,\* and the fire engine arriving from Cullompton, together with those belonging to the town, the progress of the flames were at length checked. The Angel Inn was saved owing to the great exertion of the landlord Mr. Hawkes. In consequence of the wind remaining so high, large pieces of burning reed were flying about in every direction and carried to considerable distances, which added much to this awful and distressing scene. Several houses in Bampton street were on fire, but by constant attention the flames were extinguished, and some outbuildings only destroyed on the south side of Fore street. It is rather singular that the oak spire which supported the vane, over the Corn market, was consumed. Happily no lives were lost, but the poor inhabitants were reduced to the greatest distress; wandering about the fields, or lying in despair amidst the ruins of their furniture. About 120 dwellings were thus destroyed, and the loss was estimated at £7,399. 16s., besides other property, and the insurance only amounted to £4,726. 16s.†

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\* This house was removed by order of the chief magistrate, under the provision of an act of parliament called the fire act, passed 6. Geo. 2. 1732, by which a power was given to the mayor, justice, or two capital burgesses, to order houses to be uncovered or pulled down, to prevent the fire from spreading. The owner of the premises in question, made a strong effort to get his house rebuilt, either out of the liberty rate, or poor rate, but he failed in being able to do so, and it was rebuilt at his own expense.

† In round numbers, the whole loss has been estimated at

A meeting was called by the mayor, and a subscription entered into for the relief of the poor sufferers, which amounted to £214. 17s.; a strict investigation was made as to the extent of the various losses, and the poor were relieved by tickets in equal proportions, allowing a certain dividend, according to the estimated loss.† The tickets were as follows ;—

A. D.

1794.

*“Tiverton Fire, 30 June, 1794.”*

“William Chilcott, or the bearer, is intitled to receive the sum of £8. 5s. as a dividend of 5s. 6d. in the pound, (for an admitted loss of £30,) on the sum of £215, received by subscription for the sufferers admitted to have a share.

Signed H. DENNIS.”

*Tiverton, 22 July, 1795.*

The parish register contains the following account of this distressing calamity. “This day happened a dreadful fire in Westexe. It broke out between 2 and 3 in the afternoon at the House of Humphry Rendle, Hot-presser. It burnt all the Houses on both sides, from Birching Lane to Wild-broke. It burnt with such fury that some

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£14, or 15,000, out of which the Insurance amounted to £10,000, which gives the proportion nearly the same as above.

† The estimated loss of 231 persons, comprehending the full amount of each poor family, amounted to £780. 18s. 2d. 78 families received a dividend of 6s. in the pound, making £61. 11s. 5½d.; and 91, a second dividend of 5s. 6d. in the pound amounting to £222. 18s. 1½d. making a total of £284. 9s. 7d.



A. D. 1794. of the flashes set fire to the Houses on Angel Hill, and consumed several more Houses in the lower end of Peter Street, and the beginning, or west end of Fore Street. It is computed that 130 dwelling Houses have been destroyed, or upwards, but happily no lives lost."

On the 24th July a vestry meeting was held and a committee appointed, to obtain Councils opinion, whether the parish possessed the power of obliging the Lord of the Manor, Sir Thomas Carew, to build a wall against the river, below the Church tower, a report having been made at a vestry meeting as long back as 1771, that the Church would be endangered by the continued encroachments of the river Exe, if steps were not taken to prevent it.\* In consequence of this opinion the wall was erected by the parish at an expense of £90. 18s., under the direction of Mr. Boyce, which sum was ordered to be defrayed out of the Church-rate. Since this period, all the slope bordering on the Churchyard wall from south to north, extending to the river, has been claimed by the parish, who now exercise a right over it, and it is at the present time rented of them by Mr. Heathcoat, at a trifling consideration.†

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\* See page 133.

† By a note in Mr. Martin Dunsford's m s s. journal it appears, that on the 14th February, Mr. Turner was employed by him, to weave the 1st. Sandford in Tiverton, a coarse fabric largely exported to the East Indies, and still manufactured at Cullompton. It obtains its name from Sandford, near Crediton, where they were first made.

On the 27th of January a meeting was convened by the mayor, to petition for the restoration of peace, (the war with the Low Countries having an injurious effect on the already depressed trade of Tiverton,) which was carried by a large majority.

A. D.

1795.

Early on the 12th February, Mr. Webber's mills at Bolham, with his dwelling house and premises, were burnt to the ground.

The same month was remarkable for a very high flood, by which much injury was done, and Swines-bridge, dividing the parish of Tiverton from that of Washfield, was carried away.

April 2nd. A fire broke out in Back lane, Westex, about one in the morning, which was supposed to have commenced on the premises of Mr. Fisher, drugget maker, when 8 dwellings were consumed, besides outhouses, and the fire was not subdued until five o'clock in the morning, which at last was effected by the exertions of the York Militia, (then quartered in Tiverton,) under the command of Captains Torr and Hayes. Mr. Fisher's estimated loss was about £700, of which only to the extent of £300. was insured.\*

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\* In consequence of the good conduct of the soldiers, they received the sum of seven guineas as a reward. Equal zeal and activity was displayed by them in suppressing another fire which occurred on the 7th of the same month. It broke out at the New Inn, in Wildbrooke, (being the same spot on which Camps fire took place in 1661, see page 73,) which consumed the house and premises.

A. D.

1795.

Early in June, great apprehensions were entertained of a scarcity of Wheat. In January a collection had been made to purchase food for the poor, and on the 16th some disturbances took place at Cullompton, in consequence of workmen visiting the neighbouring farmers in large bodies, to request them to bring their corn to market, which had been kept back in consequence of the apparent scarcity.

On the 18th, a meeting was held, and a committee appointed, to ascertain what quantity of corn was in the parish, which amounted to 700 bushels. They obtained a promise from the Farmers to dispose of their produce only to the committee, for the benefit of the poor, who were further directed to attend the markets, and adopt whatever measures circumstances might render necessary. At the same time ten guineas were ordered to be weekly expended by the overseer, out of the poors rate, in supplying wheat at reduced prices.\*

On the 1st. of November, an arrangement was entered into for an improved disposition of the market at Tiverton, with a hope of affording better accommodation to the public. On the 22nd of December, there appeared to be in the market 85 standings and stalls for Butchers; and 120

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\* The price of wheat at this period was 14s. a bushel, new wheat sold at 11s. 8d., and afterwards at 9s. Beef was from 6d. to 9d. per lb. and veal, mutton and pork from 4d. to 6d.

pair of panniers, besides other conveniencies, the whole occupying from St. George's Chapel, to Mr. Wood's in Gold street, on the south side, and to the Tuns, on the north, the annual produce of which amounted to an income of £192. 5s.

A. D.

1795.

On the 16th, a petition to parliament was prepared, for powers to form a Canal from Taunton to Topsham.\* This petition was signed by 815 persons, and it received the consent of 498 land proprietors and occupiers of land, out of 711, through whose property it was to pass, and only 20 absolutely dissented from it. This subject appears to have excited considerable interest and anxiety at the time, but it was not carried into effect until 1810.

At the commencement of this year, the merchants of Tiverton were much dispirited by the appearance of public affairs; a meeting was consequently held at the Angel Inn, to consider the best mode of exporting their manufactured goods to Holland, under circumstances of considerable difficulty.†

1797.

On the 1st of March, an account arrived of the suspension of payments in cash, at the Bank of England by order of the Privy Council. The

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\* See page 146.

† On the 21st February, a singular advertisement appeared in the Morning Chronicle to the following effect. "Merchants, Manufacturers,

A. D. subject led to long debates in parliament, and  
1797. added considerably to the depression of mercantile interests. A committee of the House was appointed to enquire into the causes which had produced the order in council, who reported "that the demands on the bank were £18,770,000. Their assets, exclusive of the permanent debt due from government, amounted to £17,597,000; so that there remained a surplus of £3,826,000, exclusive of the capital sum of £11,600,000, three per cent, lent at different times to government, on parliamentary security. This being estimated at 50 per cent, agreeably to the actual price of the 3 per cents, the whole of the capital vested in the corporation of the Bank, after payment of debts, amounted to £9,626,000." The publication of this account operated very favourably on all mercantile interests, and one additional cause of anxiety was removed. On the 4th March, 300 men of the 29th regiment, with two field pieces, marched into Tiverton, in consequence of 1200 Frenchmen having landed at Fishgard, in Pembrokeshire, but the whole surrendered to the Welsh. They were supposed to be the remainder of the La Vendee insurgents, against whom the French

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and others, having goods on hand suitable for the American Market, and inclined to dispose of the same at a fair price, one half Cash, and the other half for good American Lands, at a very reasonable rate well situated on navigable waters, with clear Titles, may be accommodated to any amount, by applying personally, or by letter post paid, to Barrell and Servante, American Agents, Ingram-Court, Fenchurch Street; where plans of the land may be seen, and other particulars known.

government had a considerable distrust.\*

A. D.

1797.

The first meeting of the Tiverton volunteer cavalry took place on the 10th July. They consisted of one troop, commanded by Mr. Worth. Their dress was scarlet and gold lace; but not being fully appointed, they were provided with short sticks in lieu of swords.

September 26th, the authorities commenced an indictment against those who either refused, or neglected to repair the street opposite their respective premises; an arrangement which met with considerable opposition.

On the 24th November, an alarming fire broke out in the stable of a house belonging to Mr. Witcher, on the west side of Peter street, which consumed the whole of those premises, and eleven or twelve adjoining houses. There were at this time many French prisoners on their parole, and the great exertions used by them on this occasion, were the principal cause of extinguishing the fire by cutting off the communication with other houses. Except the men attached to the engine, the inhabitants were generally idle spectators, who, had they exerted themselves, would have prevented considerable mischief.†

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\* The net produce of the market and Exebridge trusts, at this period, after discharging all annuities &c., amounted to £115.

† The price of provisions at this period of the year was lower than had been the case for a length of time; beef, 4½d., mutton and veal, 4½d.,

A. D.            On the 5th December, the French prisoners,  
1797.            180 in number, who had been long here on their  
parole, were marched, under an escort of the Wilt-  
shire militia, to Stapledon prison, near Bristol,  
much to the regret of the inhabitants, their conduct  
having been generally remarkably good.\*

1799.            In January, this year, the following notice was  
circulated, by order of the Lord Lieutenant of  
the County.

*“ County of Devon, Hundreds of Tiverton, Halberton,  
and Bampton.”*

“ By Virtue of Instructions from the Lord Lieu-  
tenant of the said County, for Carrying into  
Execution the Act, for providing for the Defence  
and Security of the Realm during the present War,  
and certain Arrangements tending to unite the  
force of this County, and to prevent Confusion  
in the Case of Invasion ; The Inhabitants of the  
several Parishes, in the said Hundreds, are re-  
quested to Select Competent Persons as herein  
after mentioned, to act as GUIDES in pursuance  
of the said Act and Instructions, in lieu of those  
already returned, Such Persons to be Young Men,  
quick sighted, bold Riders, and from their Occu-  
pations or Amusements, accustomed to know the  
Parish Roads and Country adjacent, to be mounted

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pork, 5½d., wheat, 7s. to 8s. per bushel, and fowls, 1s. each.

\* On the 8th, the market tolls were let to Mr. John Chilcott,  
for seven years, at £125 per annum.

on hardy Horses, habituated to the Roads and Stoney Lanes, and each of such Persons to be provided with a light Fowling Piece, a few Bullets, and a Powder Horn, and such other Accoutrements as may be thought necessary.—A Corps of Guides of this description may perform all the Services of the Old Dragoons, and should they at their leisure amuse themselves with firing at Marks, so as to understand the quantity of Powder requisite for the Charge of their Guns, they may fully supply the place of Riflemen.—Such Guides will be entitled to all the Privileges mentioned in the said Act, and it is hoped that this measure will be found agreeable, to Persons of every description, as they are united in the Defence of what is equally valuable to them all.—And such Competent Persons willing to offer their Assistance, may present themselves to the Deputy Lieutenant at the *Three Tuns*, in the Town of Tiverton, on Tuesday, the 22nd. Day of this Instant January, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon.

A. D.  
1799.

*5th. Day January, 1799.”\**

On the 18th, some carding and spinning machinery was erected in the hospital, for the occupation of the poor, but it was not found to answer, and was therefore soon after done away with.

The process of dyeing scarlet cloth with cochineal was practised about this time, but trade

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\* On the 11th April, the estate at Rix, was let for a term of years to Mr. Anstey and Ware, at an annual rent of £80.



- A. D. 1799. of all kind was in a declining state, and the Sandford trade, that had been tolerably prosperous before, appeared likely to fail.

On the 20th July, the South Devon militia about 600 strong, under the command of Lord Rolle, arrived at Tiverton.

In December, a summons was issued by the mayor, *J. B. Cholwich, esquire*, to "Roger Pitt, woolcomber, John Dimont, hotpresser, Thomas Pitt, yeoman, William Dunsford, sen. chandler, and Henry Rendell, clock maker, to appear personally before him and answer to the complaint of the water bailiffs of the said town and parish of Tiverton, for not attending by themselves or one sufficient labourer with proper tools and materials at the village of Chettiscombe within the parish of Tiverton aforesaid, to repair, cleanse and scour the ancient and public Water Course and Town Lake of Tiverton aforesaid, after due notice for that purpose. *Dated 16. December, 1799.*"

A notice to the Water Bailiffs was issued by the mayor, the *Rev. John Pitman*, to cause one or more of the inhabitants of the town and parish of Tiverton, to attend with proper tools, to repair, amend, and cleanse the stream of water which runneth from Norwood Common, in and through the town of Tiverton.

*Dated 15th October, 1800.*

A similar notice was issued *9th October, 1801*, by *Mr. Govett*, who was then mayor.

A. D.  
1801.

Whether a duty, so desirable, was annually performed, about this period, I have not ascertained, but, fear, at the present time, but little attention is paid to so valuable a benefaction.\*

In 1801, a great scarcity in Tiverton prevailed, by which provisions were raised to an alarming price; and although by subscriptions and private charity, much was done to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, a great deal of distress and privation existed in the dwellings of the lower orders. Wheat was for some time 18s. and one guinea a bushel, and it was sold as high as 23s. Beef was from 10d. to 1s. per pound, and it even reached in one or two instances to 14d. Potatoes were from 14 to 18, and 21s. a sack, and bread was so scarce that instances occurred where money was unable to procure it.

Mr. Samuel Clarke, the governor of the Work-

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\* By an average, produced at a vestry meeting held the early part of this year, the price of provisions in 1794, and at the same period in 1800, the difference appeared as follows;

<i>March 1794.</i>		<i>March 1800.</i>	
Wheat per bushel, ....	7s. 0d.	.....	12s. 6d.
Malt ditto, .....	5s. 0d.	.....	7s. 0d.
Peas ditto, .....	5s. 6d.	.....	6s. 6d.
Oatmeal ditto.....	3s. 8d.	.....	6s. 8d.
Cheese per Cwt.....	16s. 0d.	.....	35s. 0d.
Beef per lb. ....	0s. 2½d.	.....	0s. 4½d.
Butter ditto, .....	0s. 9d.	.....	0s. 11d.

Y

A. D. house, entered into a contract with the parish, in  
1801. January this year, to provide the poor at 3s. 4d.  
per head; but in consequence of the rise in  
wheat, between the 27th March, and 24th June,  
from 12s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. per bushel; and in meat  
from 4½d., to 6d. per pound, by which the con-  
tractor sustained a loss of £84, it was agreed  
at a parish vestry, held in January, to allow £42.,  
to remunerate him, in part, for the pecuniary injury  
he had suffered from the unexpected rise of  
provisions.

On the 21st May, the vestry met to deliberate  
on the best mode of providing for the poor, and  
to consider the propriety of borrowing any sum  
or sums of money, for the furtherance of that  
object, in compliance with an Act of Parliament  
“for making better provision for the maintenance  
of the poor, and for diminishing the consumption  
of bread corn, by directing the manner of applying  
parish relief.” For which purpose £500 was ordered  
to be raised; and the overseers were directed to  
make a rate of 480 weeks, towards effecting this  
object.\*

At this period a society existed in Tiverton,  
called the “Tiverton Agricultural Society,” which

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\* 5th. September. In consequence of the late plentiful harvest, a  
printed notice was circulated, to the effect, that as a great reduction had  
taken place in the price of provisions, “the execution of the warrant for  
the purchase of corn and other articles for the relief of the poor, is directed  
by the magistrates to be suspended until further orders.”

held its meetings at the Phoenix Inn; and in the year in question, a premium was offered to any farmer who sold the greatest number of bags of early potatoes, on any given market day. Mr. Hawkes, landlord of the Tuns, on the last Tuesday in July this year, sold 35 bags of potatoes, at from 10 to 11s. per bag, and obtained the prize, which consisted of a plain silver goblet, bearing the following inscription, "Presented by the Tiverton Agricultural Society, to Mr. Richard Hawkes, 15th December 1801."

A. D.

1801.

The year following, potatoes were very abundant, and almost as cheap in proportion, as they were dear the year previous, quantities being sold for 2s., and 2s. 6d. per bag.

1802.

On the 9th of April, an order was made to close up a portion of the old Bampton road, from Bartows causeway, to Bonny's pitt lane, (a portion of the road which was liable to be repaired by the proprietor of the castle of Tiverton,) under "an agreement that such proprietor should make and keep in repair, a good foot-path, from the Churchyard, to and through the lane leading to Bolham, as far as Rix Tenement gate, and in another direction as far as Pinnex Moor lane, and that the said proprietor be allowed to take the old road into the park and orchard adjoining."

On the 3rd of July, a portion of the ground at St. George's chapel, recently occupied by buildings, was consecrated, and the expenses, attendant thereon, were defrayed by the churchwardens.

Y 2.

A. D.  
1803.

In consequence of the threatened invasion, on the 18th July, all the loyal inhabitants within the parish of Tiverton, were called on, by virtue of an act of parliament made and passed the 43rd. of George 3rd.,\* to register their names, and to state what office they should be able and inclined to fill for the public defence.† All farmers were directed to enter their names and the amount of live and dead stock in the possession of each, that they might receive indemnification from the government for any injury sustained by the enemy, or required for the service of the Country. The returns were in amount as follows; 216 oxen; 909 cows; 906 young cattle and colts; 6397 sheep; 1655 pigs; 148 riding horses; 336 farm horses; 20 waggons; 117 carts; 571½ quarters of wheat; 92½ of oats; 587½ of barley; 5 of beans and peas; 2306 loads of hay; 149 of straw; 838 sacks of potatoes; 120 sacks of flour; 48 quarters of malt; and 5 tons of cheese.‡

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\* The intention of this act was, "to indemnify persons who may suffer in their property."

† "N. B. The several services required are,

- 1st. Bearing Arms when an Enemy has landed.
- 2nd. Pioneers.
- 3rd. Guides.
- 4th. Engaging to supply Waggons and Carts.
- 5th. Millers to supply the Army.
- 6th. Bakers to do the same."

‡ On the 30th of September, a collection was made on behalf of the sufferers in consequence of the dreadful fire at Chulmleigh, which took place on the 25th September, 1803. The amount collected is not men-

In consequence of an indictment having been brought against the road near Cove-mills, and the bridge over the mill leat, which indictment had been removed to the court of Kings bench, it was resolved on the 9th of February, "that £20. be allowed by the parish to Mr. Rowe, with the understanding that he was to build a proper bridge over the mill leat, near Cove bridge, and on his executing a proper deed or instrument to indemnify this parish (of Tiverton) from any future charge or expense relating to the same."

A. D.

1804.

At this period, corps of volunteers were formed in every district throughout England, and the Tiverton regiment, under the command of Sir John Duntze, appears to have consisted of six companies; as an item in the parish book, signifies the granting a claim of £30. to six sergeants, being at the rate of 2s. 6d. per day to each, for 40 days, "for instructing the men in the use of arms;" which amount was directed to be paid by the overseers out of the poor-rates. The order is dated *Sunday 19. August.*

At the sessions held on the 14th, several bills of indictment were found, for diversions of the Town Lake; a practice that ought, at all times, to engage the vigilance of the Portreeve and

1805.

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tioned, but from the general liberality shewn by the inhabitants, it was doubtless large; at all events it is to be hoped so, as it can never be forgotten how liberally the County contributed, on four occasions, when Tiverton suffered from a similar but more extensive calamity.

A. D. water bailiffs.

1805.

A considerable deficiency was declared this year, in the funds of the Exeter Hospital, and a resolution passed to petition the County for benefactions, on which occasion the parish of Tiverton subscribed £400. 17s.

In the month of October a particular account of the value at which the estates, fields, houses, &c. were rated to the highways, in the parish of Tiverton was taken, and the amount of composition, &c. received, in and for the year ending October 1805. Annual value of land in Pitt quarter, .. £2127.

ditto in Tidcombe quarter, ..... 2097.

ditto in Clare quarter, ..... 1400.

ditto in Priors quarter, ..... 1308.

ditto in All Fours, ..... 149.

ditto in the Town, ..... 1543.

The amount of assessment at 6d. in the pound, amounted to ..... £215. 12s.

Amount of Composition, ..... 215.

The previous assessment was made at Easter sessions, in April 1800, which at 6d. in the pound amounted to £214. 14s. 6d.

On the 5th December, a general thanksgiving took place by order of the Privy Council, for the late Naval Victory gained over the combined fleets of France and Spain, at Trafalgar, at which fell Lord Nelson, England's greatest Naval Commander. It is a singular fact, that although the British Fleet have reigned triumphant from time immemorial,

Lord Nelson was the first British Naval Commander ever killed in action. On this occasion an excellent Sermon was preached by the *Rev. C. Colton*, Fellow of Kings College, in which he set forth the duties of a Sailor or Soldier as not incompatible with that of a good Christian.\*

A. D.

1805.

Among the numerous French prisoners stationed on parole at Tiverton, was *Admiral Dumanoir*, who on the 7th of January, received a visit from *Sir Sidney Smith*; a compliment that England's greatest Hero will ever pay to a brave enemy.

1806.

This season was marked by the most tempestuous weather, not only of wind and rain, but thunder and lightning. Horses were killed, ricks of corn blown down, large trees rooted up or torn asunder, windows blown in, and houses unroofed; and on the 20th, the stone cross which stood between the crown and mitre on the eastern parapet of St. Peter's Church, over the chancel, fell down, and was broken in many pieces.

On the 5th February, a meeting was held at the Town-Hall, to consider the propriety of purchasing the remaining buildings on Angel hill, when it was decided that Mr. Boyce, the proprietor should be requested to name a price in the said property.

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\* The average price of meat from July to the end of this year, was about 5½d. per pound, and wheat 10s. a bushel.



A. D.            Mr. Beavis Wood, tendered his resignation  
1806.           to the mayor, G. Cruwys, esquire, of the office  
of town-clerk, which situation he had held for  
upwards of 40 years, and Mr. J. Wood, was  
unanimously elected to take his place.\*

The 13th of April was marked by the heaviest  
fall of snow almost ever remembered,† which con-  
tinued 20 hours without intermission, leaving the  
face of the country wearing more the appearance  
of January, than a season far advanced in spring.  
It was attended with hard frost.§

1807.           31st July, an arrangement having been entered  
into, respecting the houses on Angel hill, Mr. Boyce,  
under a contract of £183, undertook to remove  
these incumbrances, and clear the road from the  
top of Angel hill into Peter street ; thus effecting  
a great improvement to the town, and an advantage  
to the public.

The turnpike gate, which had stood at Ashley

\* On the 25th March, the market tolls were leased to Mr. Joseph Chilcott, clear of taxes, for £131. 10s.

On the 17th June, 1806, at a sale of Captain Andrew's effects, a parrot was purchased for B. Dickinson, esquire. at a cost of £15. 10s. It was said to have acquired the power of speaking different languages, and therefore considered cheap.

† The average price of meat through the course of this year varied from 5½d. to 6d. per pound, and wheat was about 10s. a bushel.

§ On the 13th of March 1807, died Mr. Martin Dunsford, author of the history of Tiverton.

from the original formation of the turnpike road in 1759, was removed to the lower end of Westexe, near the Hoop and Ball public house.\*

A. D.

1807.

On Tuesday the 1st March, Mr. Halifax, a lieutenant in the Lancashire militia, quartered at Exeter, started from the Angel hill,† to walk 200 miles in 100 hours successively; which arduous task he completed at seven o'clock on the evening of the Saturday following.

1808.

On the 8th April, the Exe rose to so great a height, that the road was impassable for many hours between the lower end of Westexe, and Ashley gate, which obliged the Exeter coach to take the old road up Exeter hill.

12th September, many of the woolcombers were called on to find bail for their appearance at the ensuing Quarter Sessions, for refusing their labour in the coloured trade, unless their wages were advanced, which it was said had received no augmentation for nearly 300 years.‡

At a vestry meeting held on the 5th January, it was resolved "that Cove bridge and the highway within bridge-bounds, be kept in repair by the

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\* The average price of provisions during this year, varied from 5½d. to 6d. per pound, and wheat was about 9s. 6d. per bushel.

† It was said to be for a wager of £200.

‡ This information is given as received, but it appears incredible.

A. D. hundred of Witheridge, and the parish of Tiverton jointly.”\*

1808.

1809.

On the 19th January, a committee was appointed to consider the best manner of dividing and distributing the Water lake through the several streets in the town, so as to afford the greatest

\* It appears that the repair of Cove bridge had been a source of contention between the parish of Tiverton, and hundred of Witheridge, from an early period, as on the 6th July 1749, it was “ordered that Mr. Treasurer, (Mr. Arthur Buckland,) be desired to pay the charges of a prosecution relating to Cove bridge, amounting to £3. 2s., and likewise to pay John Reede 10s. 6d. for his trouble in the same affair.”

“Ordered, that Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Bidgood, Mr. Hartnol, and Mr. Lock, be desired to see what repairs are wanting to Cove bridge, and to employ proper persons for repairing the same, and the charges to be paid by the parish.”

In 1752, it became again necessary to ascertain what repairs were required for Bickleigh and Cove bridges, and to execute the same accordingly, at the expense of the parish.

In 1755, August 11th. At a general court or assembly, held at the Church-house, it was “ordered, that Mr. Treasurer, (Mr. C. Morgan,) be desired to repair Cove bridge so that it might not rest upon Witheridge Pore, (which is like to fall,) and any other repairs that may be wanting to the same.”

(Signed) JOHN VOYSEY, Governor.

In 1760, August 1st, a special court, or assembly, was held at the hospital, when it was “ordered, that Mr. Treasurer (Mr. John Tucker,) Mr. Henry Osmond, and Revd. Mr. Newte, be desired to meet any three gentlemen of and belonging to the hundred of Witheridge, to be nominated by them, in order to come to some agreement for the building of Cove bridge, and to report the same next court day.”

On the 12th August 1761, articles of agreement were concluded between Joseph Quick, of Bampton, stone-mason, and Mr. George Cruwys, of Tiverton, serge-maker, treasurer of the parish, to rebuild Cove bridge, and to receive, with the old materials, £60. from Tiverton parish, and £40. from the hundred of Witheridge. In addition to which £27. was expended in 1773; (*see page 134 of this History,*) and by an entry in Mr. Henry Mildon’s journal, it appears that “Cove bridge, being finished, was surveyed this day.” Dated 20. December, 1816.

accommodation to the public at large.

A. D.

1809.

January 24th. Owing to a heavy fall of snow during the night, and continued rain throughout the day, both the rivers Exe and Lowman rose to a great height, and continued increasing until midnight. At eight o'clock P. M. from Mr. Rossiter's mills, (near the front Factory gate) to the King George public house, (in the lower part of Westexe,) was one entire river, in some places three and even five feet deep, and the water was in an oven belonging to Mr. Sharland, opposite the Swan. A chaise belonging to the Tuns was upset in attempting to pass Lowman bridge, and one of the horses drowned before assistance could be rendered; and three women inside were removed with considerable difficulty. Two houses and a large workshop were thrown down by the force of the water, at the bottom of St. Andrew street, and the materials washed into an adjoining field. Two other houses were destroyed in another direction, and a third so much damaged that the inhabitants were obliged to quit it the following morning. The loss sustained in stock &c., was immense, and Bickleigh bridge received so much injury that an expense was incurred by the Commissioners of the turnpike trust, of £1000; the old materials selling only for £20.

On the 25th of October, a Jubilee was held in commemoration of George 3rd. having reached the fiftieth year of his reign, on which occasion the

A. D.  
1809. poor were regaled with beef and pudding, and a bullock was roasted whole in a field near Bampton turnpike gate. The mayor and corporation, with the woolcombers, and other societies, to which was added the yeomanry, and a Rifle company then existing in Tiverton, marched in procession to Church, and the day was passed, by high and low, with every demonstration of loyal attachment to the King, and a display of good feeling both to friends and neighbours.\*

In consequence of the bad state of the turnpike roads and other highways in Tiverton parish, then under indictment; and it appearing on the report of Mr. Coleridge, a surveyor employed by the trustees, that the necessary repairs would amount to £1200, and finding from Mr. Chilcott, the parish surveyor, that the rates collected for the year were exhausted, it was resolved to borrow the amount estimated, and the work to be completed without delay.

1810. On the 3rd of February, the woolcombers paraded the streets on the occasion of a new flag being presented to that society by Mr. Matthew Wood. The ground was of blue silk, having Bishop Blaze, the woolcombers patron, on one side, with a shepherd and shepherdess, accompanied by a lamb and dog, on the other.

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\* There appears, by the parish accounts to have been expended from Easter 1808, to Easter 1809, for the use of the poor, £4730. 10s.

The weavers society walked in procession on the 27th June, to display a new flag which had been presented to them by Captain George Darby, of the guards, a native of Tiverton, and who had himself been bred a weaver.

A. D.

1810.

On Sunday the 1st July, a terrific storm accompanied by thunder and lightning occurred, which commenced during the afternoon service; and the vivid and unusual appearance of the lightning, in Saint George's chapel, followed, as it was by the most violent and alarming claps of thunder, in quick succession, had the effect of so frightening some of the congregation, imagining the Church was coming about their ears, that they quitted their seats and returned home in the storm.\*

During this year the curiosity of the public was much excited by some very extraordinary occurrences which took place in the village of Sampford Peverell, five miles from Tiverton; this is well known by the title of the Sampford Ghost; and although there can be no doubt of its having been occasioned by some designing persons, yet, the utmost vigilance was unequal to discover the actors in this infamous plot, "for if it be," says Mr. Colton, "the result of human machinations,

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\* The lightning is represented as having the appearance of hot bars of iron, preceded by flames of fire, which passed about three feet above the peoples heads, the whole length of the north gallery.

- A. D. there must be more than sixty persons concerned  
1810. in it.”\*

As supernatural objects will ever find attraction, and create interest in the public mind, the name of a haunted house was quite sufficient to make this habitation a source of both curiosity and alarm for a length of time.

The house appears to have consisted of a shop and kitchen below, with one staircase forming the only communication with the upstairs rooms, comprising a small anteroom or landing, a middle or passage room, and an inner apartment, and the scenes which follow were acted in the two latter rooms.

At first this goblin sprite was a daily as well as nocturnal visitor, giving evidence of its presence by violent knockings, generally drawn forth by stamping with the foot. “These phenomena, observes Mr. Colton, by day, continued almost incessantly for about five weeks, when they gradually gave place to others still more curious and alarming.” “Whatever females slept in either of these apartments,† experienced, some of them all, and all of

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\* See “Hypocrisy,” by the Rev. C. Colton. Appendix, page 295.

† An exception must here be made, when two respectable and strong minded female persons from Tiverton, slept there; but as

them some, of the following sensations. They were most dreadfully beaten, as bye-standers may hear and witness ; and I am quite certain I have heard myself, more than two hundred blows given in the course of a night." "The blows differed in violence ; at times, they can be compared to nothing but a very strong man striking with the greatest force he is master of, with a closed fist on the bed. They leave a great soreness, and visible marks ; I saw a swelling at least as big as a turkey's egg on the cheek of Anne Mills, a servant of Mr. Chave's." "When these blows and noises have been most violent, I have generally placed myself close to the bed, and when they were at their height, without changing my position, have desired one or other of the party to rush in with a candle kept ready lighted on the outside of the door for that purpose, but we could discover no cause. Every plan we could think of has been practiced to frustrate or foil artifice or design." "I have seen a sword, when placed in the hands of a woman, repeatedly and violently wrested out of them, and thrown with a loud noise sometimes into the middle of the room, and sometimes still more violently against the wall. This sword I have heard *it* take up, and with it beat the bed ;

A. D.

1810.

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they would not allow the bedclothes to cover their heads, or remain without a light in the room, the night passed without molestation. I should have observed that men were not exposed to these nocturnal assaults.



- A. D. 1810. by *its* shaking the handle in a particular manner, I have been aware of *its* taking it up. I have placed a large folio greek testament, weighing about eight or nine pounds, on the bed, it has been repeatedly thrown into the centre of the room. It is a curious circumstance that this same testament has been thrown with great violence and a loud noise, from the foot to the head of the same bed, *inclining in its direction a little to the right.*" "I have often heard the curtains of the bed most violently agitated, accompanied with a loud and almost indescribable motion of the rings. These curtains, to prevent their motion, were often tied up, each one of them in a large single knot, and in this state every curtain in that bed was agitated and the knots thrown and whirled about with such rapidity, all at the same time, that it would have been by no means pleasant to have been in their vortex, or within the sphere of their action. I have heard, in the presence of several witnesses, footsteps repeatedly walking by me, and round me, when sitting at times by the light of one or two candles, and could see nothing. I have been in the act of opening a door, which was already half open, with a candle in one hand, when a violent and sudden rapping was produced on the opposite side of the same door. I paused a moment, but while the rapping continued, I drew the door which was before half open, suddenly open ; not a second could have elapsed, yet I can swear I could then see nothing ! although I had a lighted candle in

my hand, nor can I at this moment conjecture the cause of that violent knocking. I have been in one or other of the two apartments that are so much disturbed more than once, but particularly in the one which has a large modern window, "when from the noises, knockings, blows on the bed, and rattling of the curtains, I did really begin to think the whole chamber was falling in. Mr. Taylor, sitting on a chair in the same room, while I was standing close by him, observed, "I thought it was sufficiently terrible last night, but this is more than I ever heard it."

A. D.

1810.

"One night the two servants were so much agitated that they refused to sleep any longer in their apartment; Mr. Chave permitted them, in the dead of night, to bring their bed and bedclothes into the room where he slept with Mrs. Chave; after they had been quiet about half an hour, and the light was put out, a *large iron candlestick began to move most rapidly over the whole room*, producing by its motion a noise exactly resembling the grinding of a malt mill. Mr. Chave was in the act of ringing the bell, to call up the 'prentice boy, when the candlestick was violently thrown at his head, which it narrowly missed; but after striking the head of the bed, fell upon the pillow."

"Mr. Searle, late keeper of the County gaol, informed me of his intention of going to Sampford, to find out what he termed the grand trick that was there exhibiting. He informed me, after his

A. a .

A. D. visit, however, that the blows were extremely loud  
1810. and violent on a bed in which a single female  
slept, (*Anne Mills*,) even while he was sitting on  
one side of the bed, and his friend on the other.  
The sword before mentioned, was placed, he posi-  
tively assured me, on the bed when a large folio  
testament was placed over it, thus by its weight  
pressing down the sword ; they then resumed their  
position on each side of the bed, so as to be able  
to ascertain the slightest motion of the person who  
occupied it. The sword was in a very short space  
of time hurled with the greatest violence from the  
bed against the opposite wall, a distance of about  
seven feet. He was quite certain the female in  
the bed neither moved hand or foot. It seems  
that in Mr. Searle's absence from this room, a  
few minutes, his friend struck at something and  
blood was evident on the knife, but as this circum-  
stance took place without any witness, I do not  
consider it worthy of much attention."

"As the following fact has been sworn to in  
the presence of Captain Jones, myself and others,  
I may venture to relate it. Mr. Taylor deposes  
that on going into the room in consequence of  
the shrieks of the women, the sword that before  
was lying on the floor, he saw clearly suspended  
in the centre of the room, with its point towards  
him ; he drew back and contemplated this won-  
derful object with amazement and terror, when,  
after the expiration of about a minute it fell to  
the ground, with a loud noise. He also deposed

to his perfect ignorance of the cause of this phenomenon."

A. D.

1810.

"Last Thursday night, September 13th, the family, with one exception, were not much disturbed, nor were they some nights previous to that; but Anne Mills deposed on oath, on Friday morning, before Mr. Sully, "(an Exciseman residing at Sampford)" and myself, that she was beaten so violently on that night, that she hesitated whether she should run out of bed or strike a light; in the act of doing the latter, she received a very severe blow on the back, the effects of which she deposed were very visible, and the tinder box was forcibly wrenched out of her hand, and thrown into the centre of the room, *by the same agent that gave the blows.*"

The following concluding occurrence is perhaps among the most extraordinary. It was voluntarily deposed to, in the presence of a Mr. Sumpter, by the two domestics belonging to the house, Mary Dennis and Sally Case. "That on Sunday morning at half-past seven o'clock, they were violently beaten while in bed; that the bed in which they slept was opposite to the large modern window, before described; that while nothing interfered between them and the light but a thin sheet, they distinctly saw a large arm, suspended over the bed, *without any body attached to it.* The possibility of seeing such a phenomenon, *if it was there to be seen,* I have convinced myself of."

A. a. 2

A. D.        The facts here adduced form the leading  
1810.        particulars of this singular affair, as detailed by  
the Rev. C. Colton; but Mr. Marriott, the editor  
of the "Taunton Courier," has given another ver-  
sion of this mysterious tale, with a hope, I conclude  
of being able,

      "To drag this hideous Monster into Day."  
from whence I shall give a few extracts.

He says, that Taylor, whom he considers, a  
principal actor in this goblin story, had studied  
necromancy under the celebrated Moon, and doubt-  
less some of the performances might be attributed  
to this deceptive art. He, however, made oath  
before J. Govett, esquire, Mayor of Tiverton, to  
the following effect; viz.—

      "That he never saw Mr. Moon exhibit but  
three times in his life; that he never was in his  
company but twice in his life; that he never  
was under Mr. Moon's tuition one hour. Sworn  
before me, 27th of September, 1810.

*J. GOVETT, Mayor of Tiverton.*"

It appears also that this house was formerly  
occupied by a Mr. Bellamy, during whose life it  
has been supposed these premisses were used for  
the purpose of secreting smuggled goods, for, says  
Mr. Colton, "in the corner of the second room,  
where strangers usually sit during the night, there  
is a large hole about two feet square, and six  
feet deep." Mr. Marriott, in remarking on this  
circumstance, says that instead of their being but

A. D.

1810.

one communication with the upper rooms, as stated by Mr. Colton, there are three, a fact which "Mr. Chave studiously concealed from the numberless visitors who have been drawn by curiosity from all parts of the country to attend the ghostly lectures."\* In this statement he gives at length the result of Mr. Talley's nocturnal residence at this house, and observes, that on his, (Mr. T's.) going into the inner room, "he was much surprised to observe a man named Dodge, a cooper, sitting on the bedside, *half concealed by the curtain.*" Mr. Colton, in his remark on this passage, says, "Mr. Talley himself now admits he recollects he did not see any man half concealed behind a curtain, for the plainest of all possible reasons, *there were no curtains to that bed* on which he saw Mr. Dodge sitting." Mr. Marriott, in proceeding with his account, states, "that Mr. Talley then took the precaution *to lock all the doors*; and, taking the keys with him, went into the bed prepared for him in the servants room;" and continues, "on the following morning Mr. T. went into the chamber where Dodge was, who could not quit his room till he had let him out of it, *he having taken the key!*" "This," says Mr. Colton, is rather miraculous, as I shall now make it fully appear that the door of this identical chamber where Mr. Dodge slept, on that memorable night, with the apprentice boy, hath never had since its for-

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\* See his journal for 20th September, 1810.

A. D. mation, either key-hole, lock, bolt, bar, or any  
1810. thing to secure it, but a very common thumb latch,  
even the catch of which was gone."

Amid these conflicting statements, it does not become our province to attempt a solution ; and in the words of the talented author of the pamphlet, from which I have so largely quoted, simply say,

"Hear blust'ring Marplot, like Glendower bawl,  
"At Sampford's vasty Pond for goblins call,  
"Be not deceived my Friends, 'tis all a Hum,  
"Roar as he may, and rant, *No Ghost will come.*"

The Cock-lane ghost, in 1762, was discovered, and the authors consigned to the punishment such iniquitous proceedings so justly merited ; but of the Sampford ghost, it can only be further observed, it was "going on more than three years ; in defiance of a reward of two hundred and fifty pounds, to be given to any one who can produce such information as may lead to a discovery. Nearly two years have elapsed, and no claimant has appeared."\*

The editor of the Taunton Courier† quite releases Mr. Colton from at all "acquiescing in the object of its original contrivance."

Of Mr. Colton it may be remarked, that during his ministry at Tiverton, (which continued for some years as Curate of Priors portion,)

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\* Hypocrisy, appendix, p. 294.

† See Taunton journal, 25th October, 1810.

he exhibited considerable talent, whenever he liked to exercise it. His general habits but little accorded with the offices of a Clergyman, and the negligence with which he, occasionally, performed his duties in the Church, testified how little he felt the sacred calling with which he was entrusted, and the effect could only be prejudicial to others. In his habits he had the character of being social,—an agreeable companion,—not given to intemperance, and liberal to his neighbours and friends, but was addicted to the fearful vice of gambling, which, at last, is reported to have brought his life to an awful close. Soon after his leaving Tiverton, which he did on procuring a College living in the neighbourhood of London, he was concerned in the business of a wine merchant; but his ruling vices having led to a suspension from the duties of his profession, he retired to Paris where he resided several years, but at last, sunk in the depths of wretchedness, he closed his career by suicide. The following is extracted from “the American in Paris,” Vol. 1. p. 119. “I have just fallen accidentally upon the story, which every one knows, of the unhappy Colton. He wrote books in recommendation of virtue, and critiques in reprobation of vice, with admirable talent. He was a Clergyman by profession, and yet became a victim to this detestable passion (gambling.) He subsisted by play several years amongst these dens of the Palais Royal, and at length falling into irretrievable misery,

A. D.

1810.



A. D. ended his life here by suicide. One feels a sadness of heart in looking upon the scene of so horrible an occurrence; one owes a tear to the errors of genius, to the weakness of our common humanity."

1810.

1811. About the commencement of this year, some men were engaged in trying for coal on Howden farm, but their labours were ineffectual. A marley substance, bearing much resemblance to Kimmeridge-clay, is still to be found in that neighbourhood, which contains bitumen, and is consequently of an inflammable nature. This search was commenced in consequence of the dream of a person named Puddicombe.†

In consequence of the bad state of the turnpike, and other roads within the parish of Tiverton, it was agreed at a vestry held on the 10th of August, that £200 should be raised to repair them, (the cost being estimated at that amount,) under an arrangement with the Trustees of the turnpike, that any sum or sums of money so procured, might be expended at the discretion of the parish. The repairs were to be effected without loss of time, for the purpose of getting the indictment removed, which had been laid on them in consequence of a presentment at the quarter sessions.

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† In July, a dozen very fine Salmon were taken, above Exe-bridge; which was considered a very unusual occurrence.

On the 25th September occurred a most violent storm of wind and rain, approaching to a hurricane, which lasted nearly the whole day, accompanied with greater heat than ever had been remembered, the thermometer standing in the sun at 128, and 84 in the shade.

A. D.  
1811.

It was announced at a vestry meeting, held on the 8th of October, that 3770 bushels of wheat had been purchased and sold to the necessitous poor at a reduced price, by which a loss of £231. 6s. 9½d. was sustained by the parish.\*

On Sunday 7th April, Elizabeth Drewe was discharged from Bridewell, having been kept there, under sentence of 14 years transportation, (for being a general receiver of stolen goods,) from the 5th April 1798. She had reached her 75th year, and was in excellent health.‡

1812.

In consequence of the great price of provisions at this time, a meeting was convened by the mayor, and holden at the Town Hall, to propose the adoption of measures for the relief of the poor, on which occasion £250. was subscribed, and expended in the purchase of wheat, barley, and potatoes, which were

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\* The average price of wheat during the course of this year was about 12s. a bushel, and meat 6½d. per pound.

‡ A man personating Oliver Cromwell, who had been in the habit of visiting the School green on the 29th of May, as before mentioned, (see page 76,) was refused admittance this year, for the first time.

- A. D.      retailed to the poor at a reduced price. In July  
1812.      following potatoes were so scarce, that not one  
            was brought to the market for a fortnight.†

On the 1st June it was agreed, that the gallery in St. Peter's Church, called "the Latin School Gallery," should be vested in the trustees of that institution, for an annual consideration of £22, to commence at Easter 1813. In consequence of this arrangement 15 feet were added to the gallery, and the position of the stairs altered, the whole being effected at the expense of the charity.

The injury sustained by Bickleigh bridge, from a late flood, was, on the 26th August, reported as properly repaired, at an expense to the Trust of £97. 13s. 3d., of which the stakes, labour, and iron amounted to £78. 8s. 11½d.

In November (26th.) it was decided at a meeting of the Turnpike trustees, that a new road should be forthwith made to Exeter, passing below Stoke-hill; and a new line formed to Bampton and Dulverton, by the course of the Exe. The

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† The average consumption in the City of London, per week, was computed, at that period to be 1000 oxen, besides sheep, calves, lambs, and pigs, the annual consumption of butter was in 1840, 11,000 tons; of cheese, 13,000; while the quantity of poultry consumed, in the same period, amount to £80,000 sterling, independent of game, &c. The number of sheep in England was estimated at 12,000,000., and it was calculated, that the Canals then in use, were equal to the transport, with two horses, of about 200,000 weight, while the same quantity by land would require 84 carts.

improvement here contemplated, and immediately afterwards carried into effect, reflects the highest credit on the projectors, as it opened a communication to Dulverton by the course of the Exe, which unfolds the most beautiful scenery.\*

A. D.

1812.

A new arrangement was entered into, on the 19th of April, respecting the sittings in St. Peter's Church, a practice having long previously prevailed for the Churchwardens to let the seats to the highest bidder. This was discontinued by order of the Bishop. At the same time, all families having purchased seats, under the vestry regulation of 21st April 1794, and the 10th January 1799, were to be permitted to hold them during the residence of any portion of the family in the parish.†

1812

A violent thunder-storm, accompanied by a water-spout, occurred on the 12th May, which passed immediately to the north of Tiverton, without a drop falling in the town. It was very visible however, from various places, and excited much curiosity. After some time this water-spout divided, a portion taking its direction to the north west, and the river Exe rose five feet in about an hour,

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\* The average price of wheat during the past year, was 14s. 1d. per bushel and meat 6½d. per pound.

† 21st April. A stone arch behind the Workhouse, which conveys the Town lake in the direction of the town, was repaired, and completed this day, at an expense to the parish of £28. 19s. 6d.

B. b. 2.

- A. D. which occasioned considerable damage. 'This has  
1813. been recorded as the wettest summer within the  
memory of man.

On the 17th of August an immense hay-rick, containing the produce of 100 acres of meadow, and measuring 50 paces in length, 10 in breadth, and nearly 20 feet high, was discovered to be on fire, and the flames soon spread through its whole length. Five engines were brought to the spot, but in spite of all their exertions, the flames could not be subdued until the 19th. Astonishing to relate, full half the hay was saved, so as to form another rick 100 feet in length, and 25 in breadth.

On the 28th of October, the wall bordering on the turnpike road, by Greenway's, was completed, at an expense to the turnpike trust of £40.\*

1814. The 10th of January is marked by one of  
"the most severe frosts both within and without  
doors ever remembered; and the Thermometer  
was this day 10 degrees, in a warm room, below  
the freezing point."†

A heavy fall of snow set in on the 11th, which continued twenty-four hours, and travelling was suspended for several days.

On the 13th, the Exe was frozen so hard both

\* Average of wheat during this year was 14s. 6d. per bushel, and meat was 6½d. per pound.

† Mr. H. Mildon's mss. journal.

above and below the bridge, that it presented a very lively and animated appearance from the numbers who were occupied in skaiting on it; and on the 14th, the Rev. C. Colton, directed a table and forms to be placed on the ice, where he remained, with several friends, drinking punch. He afterwards exhibited fire works, and being an admirable skaiter, he amused hundreds of spectators by the exhibition of that talent, and letting off Roman candles, which he held in his hand, producing a singular and pleasing effect, and he managed the whole with great dexterity\*.

A. D.  
1814.

On the 16th of May in consequence of the preliminaries of Peace having been signed, the poor were regaled with 2987lbs. of meat, puddings, cider, &c., and the rejoicings, accompanied by processions, sham fights, feastings, and other demonstrations of joy, continued until the 20th.

On the 21st, Johanna Southcote, a native of Thorverton, was burnt in effigy; and further to commemorate this memorable period, on the 27th of June, a gig and horse, passed on the new road, for the first time, as far as Bolham.

On the 1st of July, Peace was proclaimed in Tiverton; and on the 7th a day of thanksgiving was ordered throughout the kingdom, so that by one spontaneous devout offering to God, the

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\* The snow remained partially on the ground until May. The frost set in on the 26th of December, 1813, and lasted until the 22nd of March following.

- A. D. inhabitants of this, our favoured land, might  
1814. acknowledge with thankfulness, the blessings of  
peace, and a sense of the multiplied benefits bestowed upon us. The evening closed with brilliant illuminations, which were conducted with order and regularity.

On the 3rd of August the foundation stone of Grubeer bridge, on the Cruwys Morchard road, was laid, the estimated expense of which was £72. 10s.

On the 25th, the first barge arrived by the Canal, laden with Coal, which reduced the price 3d. per bushel; thereby producing a benefit to the rich, and a blessing to the poor.

September 13th, being market day, is well remembered by the old inhabitants, as having produced the greatest quantity of wheat remembered for many years. In November, mutton sold for 3½d. per pound; although in January, February, and March of this year, meat was as high as 8½d. and 9d. per lb on the average.

October 26th. The charity school girls sat in their new gallery for the first time, having occupied Greenway's chapel for more than a century.

The multiplied events of this year closed with the appointment of Counsellor Tonkin, to the office of Recorder of Tiverton, by the mayor, Henry Dunsford, esquire, junior; and a fire which

occurred at Howden farm, that in about two hours destroyed the dwelling house, barns, stable, and outbuildings, with the greater part of the household furniture, corn, cider, and farming utensils.\*

A. D.

1814.

The new year opened by the attendance of the Sunday school children at St. George's chapel, for the first time ; an event that every well-wisher to the Church, and all who feel anxiety for the religious instruction of the children of the poor, must have hailed with unmitigated satisfaction.†

1815.

Wednesday the 25th January, a vestry meeting was held, to consider a plan proposed for the preservation and improvement of Exebridge, a report having been made by Mr. Mildon, the parish bridge surveyor, that the wood work was in a dangerous state, which led to the recommendation, "that the foot path on the south side, should be lengthened with stone or iron, and finished with iron rails, the whole to be executed in a progressive manner, and that Mr. Mildon, (the parish surveyor,) be directed to procure a plan and estimate of Mr. Wallis, engineer."

On the 8th of March took place a violent gale of wind from the south, which blew down

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\* The average price of wheat, during the course of this year. was 7s. 4d. and meat 6½d. per pound.

† January 6th. Oats sold in Tiverton market for 2s. 3d. per bushel, and inferior wheat, on the 17th of the same month, at 4s. 9d.



- A. D. the hollow ornamental stone work, and the sun-  
1815. dial, which stood on the front of Greenway's chapel, after having braved the tempest for 298 years.

The new line of road over cherry-tree hill, about two miles on the road to Exeter, was opened for passengers and carriages on the 5th of July.

On the 15th of September, soon after 12, P. M. a sudden and alarming fire broke out in St Andrew Street, opposite the lower end of the New Church-yard, which in less than two hours consumed six dwellings, besides workshops, back houses, and other buildings.

Few, if any towns in England have experienced greater vicissitudes than Tiverton. Fire has several times laid desolate the dwellings of the poor, and the habitations of the rich, and the reverses frequently experienced in trade, have fallen on this town with a heavy hand. Much injury has been occasioned by the disaffection of some of the labourers, and at this period of our history, the woollen manufacture, that had hitherto been the principal support of the town, ceased, almost entirely, to exist.

In little more than a century, from 1705 to 1814, the trade of Tiverton had undergone great change. The population, during this time had considerably diminished, indeed nearly to the extent of 3000 persons, the numbers from 1705 to

1725 being about 8690, and by the returns of 1811, including the Local Militia, (estimated at an addition of about 200,) the total amounted to 6932,\* of which number 1429 were employed in trade, and manufacture.

A. D.

1815

In the diminution of 3000, here given, 1200 appears to have been since 1785, as Mr. Martin Dunsford returns the population of that year at 7699.

From the commencement of the 18th century to the termination of the first quarter, (1725) the woollen trade is described as in a most prosperous condition; and although the dreadful fire which occurred soon after, (1731) with other causes as well general as local, operated as a check to the progress and improvement of trade, still to the year 1790, sufficient remained to secure for Tiverton a respectable position among the principal manufacturing towns in the west of England. The introduction of fine druggets, drapeens or chain druggets, and cloth serges, in 1720, produced a very beneficial effect; and the facility afforded of procuring Irish worsted, at a cheaper rate than it could be rendered, by following the usual process of preparing it at home, would have operated advantageously, and increased the trade of the town, had the woolcombers, instead of exhibiting

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\* For a detailed account of the population returns, see Appendix, No. 22.

- A. D. 1815. their prejudices in riot and disorder,\* been guided by reason, and, at least, accepted the compromise most liberally offered by the merchants;† for, says Dunsford, “it was thought that five packs of Irish worsted might have been manufactured weekly, without any detriment to the labour of the woolcombers, whose dependence was on the serge trade with Holland and Flanders.”‡ “In a tract published in 1739,” says McCulloch,§ “entitled *considerations on the running (smuggling) of wool*, the number of persons engaged in the manufacture is stated at 1,500,000, and their wages at £11,737,500 a year.” The introduction of Norwich stuffs, camblets, tarborates, damasks, plain and figured barragons, and other articles, in 1752, together with finer goods made of Irish worsted, which were scoured and dyed the finest colours, scarlet, purple, crimson, yellow, blue, green, &c., in a variety of shades, created a hope of restoring Tiverton to a state equal to the most prosperous period of its commercial history; but this gleam of sunshine, was unhappily, soon obscured, for in 1761, it was suddenly stopped, and the establishment of a mixed serge manufactory at Wellington, about the same time, had the effect of drawing

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\* See account of the riots in 1738, and 1749.

† See page 114 of this History.

‡ See page 231 of Dunsford's history.

§ Vol. 1. page 625.

from Tiverton many of its useful inhabitants.\*

A. D.

1815.

“From the earliest period of the woollen trade, until the latter end of the last century, or about the year 1780, very few, if any, mechanical improvements had been introduced ;” the various processes were carried on nearly in the same manner, but with greater or less skill, and were employed upon materials more or less valuable. † The carding and spinning of wool, and the weaving and finishing of cloth, in the early part of the reign of George 3rd., were effected by the same kind of machinery as in the reign of Edward 3rd., which, probably, were similar to those of the ancient Romans, but more rude in their construction. In an art which

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\* In 1771, the price of fine white serges was from 2s. 3d., to 3s. a yard, and common white from 22d., to 30d. Wool at this period was, at Bridgewater, from 6d. to 7d. per lb. in fleece ; about Glastonbury, 9d. or 10d. ; in Gloucestershire, 7d. to 9d. ; Cirencester, about 7d. ; and in Devon and Cornwall, at a lower rate.

† In 1770, a pack of 240lbs. of short wool, was computed to employ 63 persons, per week, to manufacture it into cloth ; and a pack of large, long combing wool, made into stuffs, serges, sagathies, &c., employed 202 persons a week, exclusive of dyers. The same quantity could now be produced, by a similar number of hands, in 2½ days, in the first instance, and a diminution of about ¼ in the last case, making the difference less than might be imagined by those who are not acquainted with the manufacture of fine cloth.” (*Private information.*)

“Notwithstanding the carding engine, the spinning frame, the gig or raising machine, the shearing machine, brushing machine, &c. have been mostly introduced since 1790, it is the opinion of some well informed manufacturers, that as many hands are at present required to produce the same quantity of cloth as at the last mentioned epoch. This result, so different from what might be expected, is accounted for by the fact, that a great deal more work is now expended upon the cloth ; the appearance of which has been vastly improved.” *McCulloch*, v. 1. p. 627.

C. c. 2

A. D. had seen so many centuries roll on without any  
1815. change, it did not appear possible to the manufacturer that any improvement could be effected; and had not the genius of Hargraves and Arkwright changed entirely the modes of carding and spinning cotton, the woollen manufacture would probably have remained at this day what it was in the earliest ages of civilized society.”\*

An extensive manufacture of Estamenes, (exported almost entirely to Spain, Portugal, and the Levant,) as well as a continuance of the serge trade with Holland and Flanders, was at this time carried on, in Tiverton, and “in 1790, there were 1000 looms, 700 of which were in daily use; and 200 woolcombers.”†

A short period following 1780, a great check was occasioned in the wool trade, in consequence “of the extraordinary increase of cotton manufacture, and the extent to which cotton articles then began to be substituted for those of wool; and though it did not occasion any absolute decline, it no doubt contributed powerfully to check its progress.”‡ The woollen trade, indeed, had made no very great advance for a number of years, as

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\* (*Rees's Cyclopædia, article, Woollen manufacture.*) Machinery was first used in Tiverton by Mr. Warren, a merchant, in 1780.

† Lyson, page 507.

‡ McCulloch, vol. 1. page 622.

we find "that an average of six years, ending with 1789, the annual official value of exports was £3,544,160 a year; being an increase of only about £540,000, on the amount exported in 1700."\*

A. D.

1815.

In 1792, a manufactory was commenced by Messrs. Heathfield, Dennis and Co., in Westex, which was opened in 1793, and originally intended for a cotton mill, as several children, both male and female, were sent to Sheffield, (under the superintendence of a trust-worthy workman named James Davy,)<sup>†</sup> where Mr. Heathfield had a mill, to familiarize them with the necessary operations; and many bales of cotton were brought hither, with carding and spinning machinery, but from some cause, not apparent, a part of it was packed and returned to Sheffield, and the rest was never used.

At this period a scale of labourers wages was arranged, (under the direction of the liberty,) to be paid by the several masters and employers, dated 11th June, 1793, according to the stile of manufacture, varying from 10s. for weaving, per piece of 47 yards, to 4s. 1½d. a piece, measuring 37½ yards.<sup>‡</sup>

Worsted spinning was, shortly after the

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\* McCulloch, vol. 1. page 622.

† He is now living in one of Waldron's alms-houses.

‡ See appendix, No. 23.

A. D. completion of this new factory, introduced into  
1815. it, and a good deal of broad-cloth, then in great demand for Officers Uniforms, was made and dyed in Exeter; but the principal production was Sandfords, to supply the East India company, for which purpose contracts were entered into of fifteen years duration.\*

Thus we find that every exertion was used to support the woollen trade by the introduction of various species of manufacture, which averted for a time, the threatened evil, and promised a restoration of former prosperity; but the French revolution, by closing the ports of Holland and Flanders against us, extinguished the hope that remained.

The introduction of a new manufactory, however, kept the woollen trade in existence until 1815, when the death of the managing partner, Mr. Armitage, which occurred on the 21st March, and an examination into the general accounts, leading to a conclusion that the concern was not in a prosperous condition, the whole was abandoned, the stock and machinery were sold by auction, and the factory, in the course of that year, passed into Mr. Heathcoat's hands.

The first mill erected on that part of the river Exe, opposite the Ham, was the one formerly

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\* See note to page 153 of this history. Sandfords are still made at Moreton, Wellington at Mr. Fox's factory, at Cullompton by Mr. Upcott, and other places.

occupied by Mr. Rossiter, which stood on the site of the original Pale-house, and to supply it with water, a leat was cut from the river, about half way from St. Peter's Church, to that at present existing;\* and when, subsequently, in 1677, other parties were desirous of obtaining water, they procured permission to erect a weir, on the site of the present 'Head-weir,' agreeing to bring the stream, free of expense, to the original mill, in consideration of the proprietor abandoning his former right. The mill, of which we have previously spoken, was projected in 1791, by Thomas Heathfield, esquire, of Nutwell, in the parish of Woodbury, and Nicholas Dennis, esquire, of Tiverton, on the breaking up of the Dutch trade in consequence of the French revolution, and forms the old part of the present building. Prior to its erection, there were several small Fulling mills on the leat, belonging to different owners, together with the adjacent land; the north part of that, denominated 'The Ham,' was formerly attached to pale Barton,† and the south part, called Brays or Boyes Ham, was, at one period, in possession of Peter Blundell, being a part of his benefaction for the support of the grammar School. These premises were, at length, vested

A. D.

1815.

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\* This Leat has been filled up many years; but it separated the lower part of the Ham, and left what was termed 'the Island.'

† A large farm formerly attached to the Castle, belonging to the Lord of the Manor, and comprehended the little, or Castle park. It is now in some degree reduced, and bears the name of Castle-barton.



A. D. 1815. in Messrs. Heathfield and Dennis, who levied a fine, and conveyed them to Mr. Henry Dunsford, as their trustee during the progress of their building, in June 1792.\*

The first partnership deed was dated 25th May, 1798, between Thomas Heathfield of Nutwell, esquire; Joseph Wells of London, merchant, (also a partner in the Sheffield concern;) Nicholas Dennis, of Tiverton, merchant; William Jackson, junior, esquires, Cowley place; Richard Lardner, esquire, Tiverton; Samuel Young, esquire, Bedford square, London; and Joseph Armitage, Tiverton, merchant, the seven gentlemen agreeing to carry on business under the firm of Heathfield, Dennis,

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\* The original contract for the erection of this Factory, with William Gream, of Ottery St. Mary, mason, is dated 30th September, 1791, He engaged to build a Mill at 28s. per rood, of 272 feet, and if there was any day work, masons were to be charged 14s. per week, and labourers 7s. On the 10th of October following, a contract was entered into with Edward Boyce, carpenter, who agreed to provide oak or memel beams, joists, &c. at 2s. 3d. per cubic foot, including labour and nails, or in scantlings at 1s. 6d. per foot, and to charge 1s. 10d. per day for any extra work for carpenters,; and on the 13th of the same month, Matthew Marshall, and James Beck, contracted for lathing and plastering two coats at 2½d. per yard, and for rendering and plastering at 2½d. per yard. By the first of these contracts, it was stipulated, that the building should be finished by the 1st of July following; but that this was scarcely done appears by a subsequent contract with William Green, dated the 17th August, 1792, by which he agreed to slate the building for 7s. 6d. per square. On the same day a contract was entered into with Joseph Howe, for glazing the windows at 2½d. per foot, (it is presumed for labour only,) and on the 24th of August, George Johns, plumber, agreed for the lead work, at 28s. per Cwt.

I have entered thus into detail for the purpose of shewing the rate of labour fifty years since.

and Co., and the first six to advance a capital of £24,000, for "spinning wool, cotton, and flax." This firm continued to the 18th September, 1801, when a new deed was executed, and Mr. Dennis retiring out of the concern, several new partners were admitted, and the denomination of the firm was altered to Heathfield, Lardner, and Co. In 1809, on the withdrawal of Mr. Lardner, the business was carried on under the firm of Heathfield and Co., in which state it continued until the death of Mr. Armitage.\*

A. D

1815.

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\* The original factory, called Rossiter's mills, mentioned in page 200, was small in extent and under the conduct of a different firm. In 1765 a partnership was entered into, for fourteen years, between William Smale, and John and Charles Baring, which was followed by Dennis and Smale; Dennis and Hogg, (who afterwards took the name of Ballard and resided at Bideford;) Dennis and *Hatfield*; Baring, Gould, and Baring; and lastly, Jackson and Vicary. It continued its operations until August 1817, when the business finally closed, and the factory is now in the possession of Mr. Heathcoat.

The notoriety gained by one of the partners, *John Hatfield*, as an accomplished swindler, will justify a few observations here, as the impositions he practised, and the injury sustained by his partners in Tiverton, must render his name and adventures a subject of interest. He was born of humble parents at Mortram, in Longdale, Cheshire, in 1759; and as he advanced in life, his education must have been above his station, particularly at that period. After some domestic depredations, he quitted his family, and sought employment as a rider to a linen draper in the north of England, and during his excursions he became acquainted with a respectable girl, who had been bred in a farmers family, but afterwards declared to be a natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, a son of the Duke of Rutland, whom he married in 1777 or 1778, and received with her £1500. By this wife he had three daughters, but having in the course of a few years squandered all their means, he deserted his family, and appeared in London in 1782. His wife did not long survive the state of destitution in which she was left, and Hatfield having contracted large debts, was placed

D. d.

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The factory thus changing possessors, the staple commodity was transferred from Woollen to

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in the Kings bench prison. His manners and address were peculiarly engaging, he had a great command of language, and his appearance was prepossessing, which, added to more than ordinary cleverness, assisted in the commission of many frauds; and by imposing on the credulity of a Clergyman, he obtained his release, and in 1784 or 5, he followed his grace the Duke of Rutland, (appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland,) to Dublin, where he described himself as a scion of that noble House, which gained for him considerable credit; but after the expiration of about a month, his horses, carriages, and servants not making their appearance as announced by him, and being unable to pay his Inn bill, he was placed in the Marshalsea prison; but obtaining his release shortly after, he quitted Ireland. He arrived at Scarborough in 1792. Here he also represented himself as a relative of the Rutland family, but again involving himself to a large amount, he took a sudden departure for London, to which place he was followed, and lodged for a third time in confinement. His career was thus checked for 8½ years, at which time a Miss Nation, (daughter of a Mr. Nation, steward and land agent to Colonel Acland, then living at Pixton, with whom he, by some means became acquainted,) released him from prison, and gave him her hand in marriage. He retired with his wife to Dulverton, where she resided, and he had the good fortune to connect himself with Mr. Dennis, in the woollen trade at Tiverton. In consequence of this new engagement, he removed with his family to a cottage at Washfield, about the middle of 1801, and his engaging manners and appearance, added to considerable pretensions, and great suavity of deportment, obtained for him influence among the respectable inhabitants of Tiverton, and this beautiful and sequestered spot, screened him for a short time from the gaze of those most likely to detect his former delinquencies. Among his respected neighbours, was the Rev. T. Wood, Rector of Washfield, who extended to Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield every consideration and kindness. Early in 1802, he (Hatfield) announced to his benefactor, that he was about to leave the neighbourhood, "well Mr. Wood," said he, "if they will make a great man of me, they must; I have been summoned to London." He departed probably in a few hours after this interview, leaving his wife and two infant children behind; but having swindled his partners and others out of large sums of money, he was made a bankrupt, separating him from the rest of the firm. From Tiverton he visited other places, and in July 1802, our hero, (transformed into Colonel the Honorable Alexander Augustus Hope, brother of the Earl of Hopetown, and member

Lace, the purchase of this valuable property being made by Mr. Heathcoat of Loughborough.

A. D.

1815.

for Linlithgow,) arrived at Keswick, where he formed an acquaintance with the celebrated "beauty of Buttermere," Mary Robinson, whom he afterwards deceived into a marriage under the name of Hope. During his short residence in this neighbourhood, and previously to his pretended marriage as above stated, he became acquainted with a Colonel More, an Irish gentleman of great respectability, who, (accompanied by his niece a young lady of good fortune, and great personal attractions,) had been residing at Keswick some time. To this lady he paid his addresses, and his agreeable manners, and pleasing appearance, having soon placed him in the position of an accepted suitor, preparations were made for the celebration of their nuptials. Colonel More, however, thinking it only right he should announce to his noble family, the connexion he was about to form, Hatfield pretended to write letters, and while awaiting answers, he proposed to employ that time in a visit to Lord Hopetown.

At this period it happened that Lady A ——— accompanied by her friend Miss L ———, were paying some visits in Scotland, and during a short sojourn at the inn at Kinross, about the end of June or beginning of July, (1802) they met the subject of our memoir, and a singularity in his appearance, induced them to enquire his name, when they were informed, he was a Mr. Hope, who had been several days resident there on a fishing excursion to Loch Leven. Lady A ——— and her friend, from Scotland removed to Keswick, where they arrived in October, and almost immediately after which, Colonel More requested half an hours conversation with them to enquire who and what this Mr. Hope was, as he had become his niece, Miss D'Arcey's, accepted suitor, and had boasted of his acquaintance with Lady A ———, and *his hope of being able to introduce his intended bride to them the following winter*, and that he had dined with her Ladyship at Kinross. As Lady A ——— wholly denied any acquaintance with this gentleman, suspicions were raised, and on an examination of his trunks, he was found to be the celebrated impostor Hatfield; a warrant was issued for his apprehension by Sir Frederick Vane, on the clear proof of his having forged and received several franks as the member of Linlithgow, and he was committed to the care of a constable. He however, found means of escape, and took refuge on board a sloop at Raving-glass, whence he proceeded to Ulverstone, and Chester, and having reached Builth in Brecknockshire, and seeing himself advertized in the paper, he made off without the ceremony of a reckoning, and making his way to the Lamb and Hay, (in the vale of Heath, about 17 miles from Swansea,) he was there taken, on the 7th December 1802,

D. d. 2.

A. D.

1813.

The history of Lace manufacture, occupies but a comparatively short period, in the annals of British trade; but its deficiency in antiquity, is, perhaps, made up by the interest which has accompanied it from its earliest dawn, through the variety

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and conveyed to London, where he was lodged in Tothill fields bridewell. To this place Mrs. Hatfield, (not having heard of his marriage with *Mary of Buttermere*,) accompanied by a highly respectable inhabitant of Tiverton, Mr. Salter, went to visit him, after which she returned again to Washfield.

On the 5th May 1803, this arch impostor, was brought to the office at Bow-street, where he passed his final examination before Sir Richard Ford, previous to his being sent into Cumberland, who informed him, "that as the charge respecting his not appearing to the Court of bankruptcy, (connected with Tiverton) was done away, he must now be made amenable for those offences, of which he stood accused in Cumberland, namely, forging and altering a bill of exchange, and forging a frank in the name of the honorable A. Hope, brother to Lord Hopetown, and on which charges he, Sir Richard Ford, was in possession of the warrants issued against him by a magistrate of that county, under authority of which he would be sent thither."

Hatfield requested to remain a short time longer in London, as he said it would not impede the ends of justice, which, with the consent of Mr. Parkyer, who attended on the part of the Post Office, was acceded to, and he was remanded to Tothill-fields bridewell.

"Hatfield appeared in good health and spirits; was very well dressed, in a black coat, white waistcoat, and white pantaloons, and his hair dressed and powdered."

Towards the end of the month he was removed to Carlisle, where he was tried on Monday 15th August, 1803.

The government finding that the strongest evidence that could be produced against Hatfield was Mr. Quick of Tiverton, (who had been principal clerk and manager in Dennis's factory,) sent a special messenger for him, who arrived near 12 o'clock at night, and he was hurried off to Carlisle. Mr. Quick visited Hatfield in jail, who on seeing him, exclaimed it was all over with him, as he was the only man that could swear to his handwriting. In the course of his defence he said, "whatever be my fate, I am content, it is the award of justice, impartially administered; but I solemnly declare that I never intended to injure the persons whose names

of changes and chances that has marked its progress to the present time.

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At what period, and in what country this elegant material for dress was first wrought, cannot easily be determined. Mary de Medici, has the credit of its introduction into France, from Venice; and some Refugees from Flanders are supposed to have been the authors of its existence in this country, who settled near Cranfield, now a village on the confines of Bedfordshire, and Buckinghamshire. The first produce of their labours is said to be that which is called Brussels point, the net-work being made by bone bobbins on a pillow, which contained the threads, while the pattern and sprigs were worked with a needle.

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have appeared in the prosecution; this I will maintain to the end of my life." Notwithstanding this plausible defence, the Jury returned a verdict of Guilty, and sentence was passed on him by Baron Thompson.

The gallows was erected in an island formed by the river Eden, on the north side of Carlisle between the two bridges, and Hatfield expiated there his crimes on the 3rd September, 1803.

On approaching the place of execution, when the gallows became visible, he exclaimed, "Oh! a happy sight—I see it with pleasure!" He was asked by the Clergyman to give some particulars of his former life, but he declined doing so. Thus, dissipation in early life led him into the practice of deceit and crime; the abilities with which, a good providence had endowed him, were used to facilitate fraud, and imposition; and the means of raising himself above his station in life, and becoming of use and value to society, guided him to the commission of vices, even blacker than those already portrayed, and led to the termination of his life on the scaffold.\*

\* A picture, formerly the property of this extraordinary man, is now in possession of Mrs. Whitter, of Wilton, near Taunton, with his name, "J. Hatfield," inscribed on the back.

- A. D. 1815. The principal scene of its operations was Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, and Northamptonshire, extending itself partially into some of the neighbouring counties.

The number of persons engaged in this trade, at the height of its prosperity, is not easily ascertained; but it was stated in a petition, presented to Queen Adelaide in 1830, that 120,000 persons were dependent on the pillow lace manufacture, who were now reduced to an extremely low rate of earnings, in consequence of the introduction of machine lace, and since that time, the number is considerably reduced.

Mr. Slater, after speaking of an improved pattern of pillow-lace introduced about 1800, says, from that time to 1812 the improvement and consequent success was astonishing and unprecedented. At Honiton, in Devon, the manufacture of sprigs had reached a state of great perfection, so as to rival the best specimens of Brussels lace; and during the late war, veils of this material were sold in London as high as 100 guineas. The operation of machinery in the reduction of *this* trade, began now to shew itself, and in 1815 the broad laces were partially superseded by the new manufacture, and pillow lace has since dwindled to nothing.\*

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\* "The beauty and cheapness of the fabric," observes McCulloch, (Vol. 1. page 661,) "has not only destroyed the old manufacture of pillow lace in this country, but in Belgium and France also. Instead of smuggling

The process observed in the fabrication of this ancient and costly manufacture of thread and silk lace, was, originally, chiefly carried on in the north of France, Brabant, Flanders, and the Low Countries, and the value of Brussels and Valenciennes lace is well known. The manufacture thus produced, so greatly surpassed British production, and so extensive was the demand for foreign lace in these dominions, that an act of the legislature prohibited its importation.

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1815.

The introduction of machinery in a form to partially supersede hand labour, has long existed in England, and under a presumption that the imperfection of its construction was injurious to the cloth during the process of manufacture, by the 5th and 6th, Edward 6. c. 22. its use was prohibited; so that the knitting or stocking frame was the first invention that successfully superseded hand labour.

In the reign of George 2nd., or about 150 years after the introduction of this knitting machine, many additions and improvements were attempted, and among them what was termed the "tickler machine," which guided by mere accident, was applied to the manufacture of lace. This attempt was succeeded by "a point net machine," an invention that was very nearly, but not entirely successful. Numerous efforts were afterwards

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French lace into England, English lace is very largely smuggled into France."



A. D. 1815. made, and in 1768, a Watch-maker named Hammond, applied the stocking frame to the manufacture of lace; and although his efforts were, to a certain extent, encouraging; the want of speed, and accuracy of working, rendered this, with other plans, abortive.

“Attempts were afterwards made, in different parts of the kingdom, to make fishing nets by machinery; and a workman at length discovered, through accidentally seeing a child at play, the formation and operation of the *bobbin and carriage*, (now used in the bobbin-net machine,) which was first applied to the manufacture of fishing nets. Notwithstanding this discovery, the ingenuity of the inventors was not equal to the application of it to a machine to make bobbin-net; indeed so great was the difficulty, and so many abortive attempts were made, that the projectors were regarded as among those enthusiasts who sought to obtain perpetual motion.”

“At length in 1809,\* a machine was completed by Mr. Heathcoat, (for which he took out a patent,) to make bobbin-net,† which had passed through the hands of no less than six of the most ingenious and indefatigable mechanics then known,

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\* The patent is dated 22nd March, 1809; the use of which Mr. Heathcoat retained, in a great measure, until 1823; previously to which licences to *warp lace machines*, had been granted, and there were many hundreds in the trade.

† This machine was called “a bobbin-net frame, or machine.”

whose labours had been in vain, though they had passed their lives in similar attempts.”\*

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1815.

“The machine thus accomplished, (after forty years, of experiment in different parts of the king-

\* “Lace of machine fabrication was attempted first upon the stocking frame by eye-let holing.

The point net frame was invented in the latter part of the 18th century, and the warp frame was adapted to making lace in the early years of this century. Attempts had long been made to produce a twist mesh. Moore, Whittaker, Hood, Brown, and others, had tried, some to make a knitted net, some a platted net, some a twisted net. In the latter all had failed, not having produced any semblance of a Bobbin net twist machine. Brown's patent specification proves that his fishing net machine, possessed no claim to this title. *When Mr. Heathcoat divided the warp threads and put them on a beam, apart from the traverse threads, which latter he wound upon thin bobbins and arranged them so as that they could pass around and amongst the former he invented the bobbin net machine*, this was in 1809. Morley, Lever, Sewell, Brown and others have ingloriously modified and acted upon this principle of arranging the threads, but they did not invent the bobbin net machine. Nevertheless the adaptations of this machine, patented by Mr. Heathcoat, and a host of others *present such a brilliant series of results of the application of mechanical skill, as are unequalled in the history of scientific invention.*

As Mr. Heathcoat's character now belongs very especially to Tiverton, and as Ure has thought proper to leave him out of his list of inventors of the bobbin net machine, or rather by implication to deny him that honor, I give the following from the lips of Mr. Sewell, (one of the enumerated inventors) after he had inspected Brown's patent in 1836. “That if a machine to make nets, by the use of bobbins, be a bobbin net machine, Brown's may be called one; but that it possesses nothing whatever to entitle it to be called a Bobbin net *Lace* or *Twist* machine, with the exception of the use of a thin bobbin inserted into a slit made in a piece of iron to receive it; it does not possess any of the essential principles of arrangements of the bobbin net twist lace machine, claimed to have been invented by Mr. Heathcoat, the introduction of which, lies at the foundation of what is called the Bobbin Net Lace trade. The twisting of the threads is no where described in Brown's specification; nor is the machine, as specified by him, calculated to accomplish this purpose.”

W. FELKIN.”

E. c.

A. D. 1815. dom,) was yet complex, and slow in its movements, having 24 motions to the series for twisting the mesh, and four, for the pins to secure the twist from unravelling; but before the expiration of the patent, it was simplified so as to require only six, with two motions to prevent the unravelment.

It having thus taken years of application of both skill and invention, to make the first bobbin-net machine, it occupied twenty more to bring it to its present state of perfection; and the vast amount of capital sunk during the latter period, is seen in the incontrovertible fact, that out of 5,000 bobbin-net machines now (1833) employed in the English trade, the 3,500 first constructed, at a cost of £2,000,000 sterling, have, by improvements alone, been reduced to the value of £200,000, leaving a deficiency in the English trade of £1,800,000.†

On the expiration of the patent before stated, “a temporary prosperity,” says McCulloch,\* “shone upon the trade, and numerous individuals of all professions and states in life, readily embarked capital in so tempting a speculation; prices fell in proportion as production increased,” and various improvements having taken place in the manufacture, the demand became immense, and the earnings

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† A memorial addressed, by the Merchants, Manufacturers, &c. of the silk and cotton bobbin net trade, to the Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, in 1833.

\* Vol. 1. p. 661.

of workmen were quite extraordinary. The inhabitants of Nottingham regard that period as a sort of golden age never equalled before or since. Dr. Ure remarks, that "it was no uncommon thing for an artizan to leave his usual calling, and betaking himself to a lace-frame, (of which he was part proprietor,) realize by working on it, 20, 30, and even 40s. a day." Such prosperous times were too bright to last, and though persons, devoid of either mechanical genius or constructive powers, tormented themselves night and day to improve machinery, and restore if possible, former prosperity, these hopes were unavailing, and many sunk into despair. Time, however, remedied this evil, and *bobbin net* became a manufacture of great national importance. By Mr. Drinkwater,† (in his report of 1833,) it is remarked, after giving a list of machine holders, "that a very large proportion of these are proprietors of a single lace frame; in this case the owner generally works it himself, and it is not uncommon to find one of these costly machines, which may have occasioned an outlay of £500, to £1000, within a house but little removed above the degree of a cottage; but for the most part they are worked in the attics and upper stories of substantial houses, the lower parts of which are occupied as shops or lodging-houses."\*

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1815.

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† One of the Factory Commissioners.

\* It was the Authors intention to have here introduced some interesting Statistical remarks on the lace trade, but a friend

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1815.

In some cases, where a greater or less number of bobbin net frames were possessed by one person, instead of working them under his own directions, they are let out, at a daily percentage, to middle men, called "machine holders;" but the first factory established to carry on the trade, was by Messrs. Heathcoat and Boden, at Loughborough, in which they appear to have had 56 machines.

1816.

The system of frame breaking which existed in the Counties of Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester for five or six years previously to 1816, under the name of "Luddite riots,"\* naturally attracted not only public interest and attention, from the obscurity and injury resulting from them, but also the notice of government; but of all their outrages, the attack and demolition of the machinery in Messrs. Heathcoat and Boden's† factory, was by far the most serious, both as regards the damage sustained, and the manner in which it was accomplished.

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having kindly promised some additional and important information, they are reserved for the addenda at the end of the Work.

\* These disturbances bore the title of "Luddite riots," from a person named Ludd, a weaver residing at Anstey near Loughborough, who being at times affected in his mind, would, (under the influence of these attacks,) frequently break his own frame, or injure the property of others if it came in his way.

‡ It was called the "Loughbro' Job."

† Every one of the machines were broken, (which by Mr. Boden's evidence amounted to 56,) and the lace destroyed, and he estimated their loss at between 7 and £8000., besides the interruption of their business.

The disturbed state of that district, and the continued alarm occasioned by the "Luddites," rendering both life and property insecure, induced Mr. Heathcoat to purchase the factory at Tiverton, under the firm of Heathcoat, Boden, and Oliver, of Loughborough; and after the violence committed on their property as above stated, which occurred on the 28th June 1816, the remnant of the machinery was conveyed here, and, at a very considerable sacrifice, the property at Loughborough was abandoned.\*

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1816.

At this period, the bobbin net frame was worked by hand, and it was not until three or four years after† that the rotary machines, or those driven by power, were invented. On the 20th March, 1822, the partnership above stated, was dissolved, and a part of the machinery taken to Barnstaple; since which the business has been carried on under the firm of John Heathcoat and Co.

In 1822 gas-works were erected, and a foundry, which has been superseded by the present iron foundry buildings, was established, the first casting in which took place April 6th, 1824. Many other

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\* Some of the frames were entirely broken; others only partially injured, and the implements used to effect this work of destruction, were hammers and hatchets. Some of the beams were cut through; the whole of the lace on the machines was destroyed, part of which was burnt, and John Asher, (who is at present in Mr. Heathcoat's employ, having with others, accompanied him from Loughborough,) was shot at the back of his head.

† Water power was first applied to the factory at Tiverton, in 1818.

- A. D. additions and alterations have from time to time  
1816. taken place, and the buildings, for various purposes,  
cover several acres of ground.

In the descriptions that have already appeared of this interesting machinery, it has been found necessary to regard a whole district as one manufactory, the entire system being incomplete at any one place; but at Tiverton the whole processes are carried on, from the yarn, to the fabrication of the most costly articles.

The earliest stages of this manufacture, naturally comprehend the growth of silk and cotton, which are the produce of various countries; and the small quantity of the latter used in the Tiverton factory is imported from Carolina, and some Islands south of the United States, and the last is known in the British markets as "Sea Island Cotton." This article is transported from Charleston to Liverpool; conveyed to Manchester and its neighbourhood to be spun into yarn; purchased from thence, and doubled, or made into cotton in the country.

The chief article of consumption in the Tiverton factory consists of silk, which is obtained from India, China, and Turkey, but principally from Spain, and the mountainous parts of France. The care, skill, and labour bestowed on the silk in its earlier stages, constitutes the entire difference in the quality of the material; for which reason the Piedmontese and French are considered the best,

and the remainder are nearly equal. This process is the work of girls and young women in a building called a *Filature*,† an edifice erected in a manner capable of admitting and promoting a regular current of air, in order to dry the silk quickly; an operation essential to its brightness and nerve.

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As soon as the cocoons\* are purchased, they are sorted and stoved for the purpose of killing the *Chrysalides*, and after the performance of this part of the process, (which requires much care and experience,) the reeling, or drawing off the silk from the cocoons, commense, which may be described as follows. The reeler has before her a shallow basin of hot water, nearly boiling, fixed on the top of a small furnace, to preserve a regular temperature. Into this is thrown two or three hands-full of cocoons; they are then lightly brushed with a small whisk made of fine twigs, so as to attach it to

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† This *Filature*, as used in Mr. Heathcoat's works in Italy, is his own invention.

\* The case round which the worm winds its silk, containing the *Chrysalis*. The *Bombyx Mori*, is well known as the moth produced by the silk-worm, which, from the value of its production, engaged much interest and attention at an early period. This creature is short lived, the female generally dying as soon as she has deposited her eggs, and the male survives but a short time after. China is believed to be the first country that discovered the value of this insect, and the manufacture was introduced into England about the 14th century. *Serica* was a name by which the Macedonian Greeks designated the country which produced the silk that came overland from the north of China; and the *Median robes*, spoken of by the Greek writers, were doubtless silken vestments, and it was probably used in Western Asia before it was known to the Greeks. The progress and principle was, however, involved in obscurity until the sixth century,



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all the ends of the cocoons within the basin. When this is accomplished, as many of the ends as are required to make the silk of a proper size, are laid

at which time it became in general use among the Romans, and was manufactured for them by the inhabitants of Tyre and Berytus in Phœnicia. The Persians monopolized the raw material, and guarded it with so much jealousy, that travellers from China were not allowed to traverse their dominions; and the story of two Nestorian monks of Persia, having supplied Justinian with the silkworms eggs conveyed in a reed, and hatched by him in a dung heap, has obtained general belief.

The breed of silk-worms in Europe, was, for six centuries confined to the Greeks of the lower Empire. In the twelfth century, it was transferred to Sicily, and in the thirteenth, the manufacture was introduced into Italy, and travelled thence into Spain, France, and England.

James 1st. was extremely solicitous to introduce the silk-worm into England, and an effort was made to do so. The trial was again made in 1718, when an incorporated company obtained a lease of Chelsea-park, where mulberry trees were extensively planted, and buildings erected. In 1835, a third attempt was made in Ireland by a body of speculators, who purchased a tract of land in the County of Cork, 80 acres of which were planted with 4000 mulberry trees; the experiment in each case, however, failed of success, in consequence of the climate, as it appears necessary for the mulberry trees to produce two crops of leaves, in the year, to make it answer.

In British India this valuable production is fast extending, and is gradually improving in quality. Its increase may be judged by the following statistical return made in 1839.

India, lbs. of raw silk, .....	1,385,932.
France, „ .....	1,018,901.
China, „ .....	349,542.
Italy, „ .....	181,743.
Turkey, Syria, Egypt, and all other Countries. ....	810,123.

It is stated in Graham's India, that in the Deccan, mulberry trees may be deprived of their leaves six times a year, and six crops of worms obtained, and the whole exemplifies the flattering and gratifying result, that British India will, at no very distant period, send a supply of the produce of the silk-worm to England, equal to its consumption, which is at present stated at 5,000,000 lbs of raw material a year. It is calculated that 12lbs. of cocoons are required for one lb. of raw silk, .. 60,000,000 lbs. 30,000 worms to one lb. of cocoons, ..... 18,000,000 worms. 1 oz. of eggs to 100lbs. of cocoons, ..... 600,000 oz. of eggs.

together, the amount of which, in its *raw* state, contains a large portion; and the softness of its nature occasions a ready adherence to each other, the thread receiving its compactness from a necessary pressure in passing through a twist between the basin and reel.

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1816.

The *reeler* holds the ends of the remaining cocoons in her left hand, keeping her right in readiness to supply any deficiency in the number due to the thread, which is frequently being taken up by the rotary motion of the reel. On this supply being kept up with promptness and dexterity, depends the evenness of the silk.\*

When the skeins are removed from the reels, the general practice is to twist them up to prevent their being rubbed in carriage. In this state, which is termed *raw*, it is packed in bales for exportation.

On the arrival of this produce from Italy, France, &c., at the factory, the skeins are put on reels or swifts, from whence they are wound, for the purpose of being twisted or thrown, and

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100 lbs. of leaves from each tree, ..... 9,600,000 trees.

The silk-worm was introduced into St. Helena, under the auspices of the East India Company, and the climate was found to be well adapted to the growth of the mulberry tree, but on the expiration of their charter, the establishment was abandoned.

\* The process here described, is on a principle invented by Mr. Heathcoat, and the result proves it to be one of interest and advantage.

F. f.

A. D.  
1816.

part of it, after being boiled or cleaned, as circumstances require, is transferred to the beam of the warping mill, and from thence to the warp, whilst another portion of it is wound into small brass bobbins, which are placed in carriages or shuttles, and intended to produce the diagonal threads or weft of the net. These carriages, or shuttles, with their bobbins are rather thinner than the width of the mesh intended to be made, in some instances not exceeding one thirtieth of an inch. The bobbins are formed by two thin disks of brass, about an inch and half in diameter, laid face to face, leaving a sufficient space between them to contain from 50, to 100 yards of silk or thread. About 100 of these bobbins are filled at once, by a machine, and the sound of a bell informs the winder when the proper quantity has been supplied.

The bobbins, thus prepared, are mounted in shuttles or carriages, composed of thin pieces of polished iron or brass, having their upper parts grooved to receive the bobbins, the latter are kept in their places, ( but allowed to turn in their bearings,) by the slight pressure of a steel spring against their edges.\*

About 2000 carriages or shuttles, forming a double row, are required for each machine, (which

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\* "A net-machine so far bears an analogy to a common loom that there are warp-threads stretched in a parallel layer, and weft-threads wound on bobbins which pass between the warp-threads; but beyond this point the analogy is very slight indeed. In common weaving, the warp-threads

increase or diminish according to its width,) by their passing backwards and forwards through the warp threads, which receive at intervals a lateral movement, the two systems, or series of warp and bobbin threads, are twisted together to form the meshes, their size being determined by two rows of needles or points which take them up alternately, and the net is wound on a receiving roller.

A. D.

1816

“In plain nets all the bobbins are moved similarly at one time;\* but in fancy work, some are stationary, while others pass between the warp-threads; some are shifted laterally to the distance of two or three meshes, and the movement is to the right or left according to circumstances; the warp-threads also, instead of being divided into two parcels, as in plain net, are divided into

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lie horizontal; here they are vertical. In the former case, the bobbins are only few in number; and in the latter they amount to hundreds, and even thousands. In the former the bobbin or shuttle passes between and among the warp threads in the direction of the plane in which the warp lies; in the latter it passes at right angles to that direction. In the former there is only one weft-thread, or one bobbin or shuttle, to many thousand warp-threads; in the latter, there are as many separate weft-threads and bobbins as there are warp-threads. The weft-threads, wound on the bobbins, are fastened each at one end to the upper part of the machine; and the bobbins are suspended so as to have a backward and forward motion between the warp-threads, like so many clock pendulums, being guided between the warp-threads by a very curious piece of apparatus called a *comb*.”

\* “The carriage is to the bobbin what the little boat of a shuttle is to the prin on which the weft-thread is wound.

F. f. 2.

- A. D. several, each of which is susceptible of the lateral  
1816. movement independent of the others. It is by  
modifications of these lateral movements, that the  
numerous varieties of lace are produced."

The Jacquard apparatus, which takes its name from the inventor, a weaver at Lyons, has been introduced here about four years. The working of this costly machine is influenced by a pentagonal bar, placed near the end of the bobbinet machine, which is pierced with as many holes as there are pins or levers above, over which a number of oblong pieces of card, connected by links, revolve, each piece of card, during its rotary motion, resting by turns on the flat upper side of the pentagon. These cards are pierced with holes, varying in number and disposition according to the pattern. This process bears a strong analogy to the principle of a barrel organ, where the arrangement of the pins on the barrel determine the pipes that shall be sounded, by which means the tunes are varied, and the lace produced in this apparatus is of the most costly and beautiful description.

The cotton used in the Tiverton factory, is procured chiefly from the Manchester markets, as before stated.

After a piece of net has left the machine, it is sent to be mended by women and children at their own houses; and when returned, the cotton

nets undergo the process of *gassing* or *singing*, for the removal of the hairy filaments from the cotton.† It is then bleached,\* again examined, and removed to the dressing room, where it is stretched in long lengths, and dressed, having been previously dipped in a preparation of size, and well wrung out. "While on the frame, it is rubbed with flannels, to equalize the action of the stiffening materials in different parts, and then left to dry in a warm room. It is to the nature of the solution used, that the lace owes its various degrees of stiffness." After the process of dressing the lace, whether of cotton or silk, it is removed to other rooms where it is cut into suitable widths. Narrow laces, commonly called plaitings, are made in separate breadths with a lacing thread connecting them, so as to form an entire piece the width of the machine: after these pieces are bleached and dressed, the lacing threads are drawn out, the plaitings are folded, or carded, and when pressed are ready for sale. The narrower laces are *hanked*, or folded, each fold being about half a yard long, and six dozen yards are put on each *hank*; after which it is bound at the ends with paper and ticketed.

A. D.  
1816.

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† In some instances the thread is passed through a gas flame, for a similar purpose, previously to the lace being manufactured.

\* If the net or lace is to be black, it is dyed instead of bleached.

- A. D.      These are the last stages previous to its transfer  
1816.      to the London market.†

As evidence of the facility, by which the transport of manufactures is effected, the following "Travels of a piece of Cotton lace" forms an interesting example. The cotton, in its *raw* state, (grown chiefly in Virginia, and on some Islands south of the United States, called *Sea Islands*,) is shipped at New Orleans, Charleston, and New York, and transported to Liverpool, where it is purchased by the spinner and conveyed to his mills at Bolton, Berry, or some other place at Lancashire; spun into yarn, and returned to the Manchester market for sale. From thence it is transmitted, by Liverpool and Bristol to Tiverton, made into lace, and returned by Bristol and Liverpool to Glasgow, to be embroidered; transported by Leith and London, back to Tiverton for bleaching and finishing; after which it is returned to London for sale; and in one instance, (probably in many) this travelled lace was sold to a house in Glasgow, to supply an order for America, where it would re-appear, perhaps to decorate the house of the Planter or producer of the raw cotton.

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† For the practice of lace working as obtained in Nottingham and elsewhere, see *penny Magazine*, part 27, March 1843, new series; it is right, however to observe, the 1st. diagram in page 116, is not correctly described. The diagonal threads tie round the upright ones, instead of the reverse. At Tiverton the whole processes are carried on, that are, in the work here referred to, described as being in different hands at Nottingham.

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Sketched & Drawn on Stone by W. Spross, Junr

Chas. Richardson Lith. Engr.

**THE LACE FACTORY & SCHOOL, TIVERTON.**

The water wheel, by which the machinery is driven, is one of the largest in England, being 25 feet diameter, by 20 broad, and was erected in 1826: in dry seasons it is assisted by a steam engine.

A. D.

1816.

Mr. Heathcoat provides daily occupation to upwards of 1200 hands in his factory, and nearly as many at their own houses, in mending the lace and other incidental operations. The rate of wages varies among the men, from 9s. to 25s; women, 5s. to 9s. or 10s; and from 1s. 6d. to 5s. children, who are not admitted until they have attained the age of ten years, and able to read and write.

On the 18th April, about midnight, a sudden and destructive fire broke out in St. Andrew street, which burnt with such rapidity that five houses were destroyed, and nothing saved; the poor inhabitants narrowly escaping with their lives.

May 7th. The foundation stone of Clare house was laid; the land having previously formed part of the glebe allotted to Clare portion, and sold for the redemption of the land tax.

Great depression existed in the agricultural districts at this period, and much distress prevailed. On the 6th January,\* fat bacon in the Tiverton market, was 4d. per lb., and oats at 1s. 9d. per

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\* The average price of meat during this year, was 5½d. per lb. and wheat 8s. a bushel.

A. D. 1816. bushel. On the 16th, barley sold at 2s. 9d. and beef and mutton was offered for 3d. per lb; and on the 13th February some wheat was disposed of at the ruinous price of 3s. 6d. per bushel, and butter sold at a lower rate than was ever remembered.

But it was not the agriculturist alone that had to struggle with distress and difficulty; the depression occasioned by the almost total failure of the woollen trade at Tiverton,\* was another powerful cause of evil, and the poor rate, which was, a century back, about £15. a month, now required more than £500, or full 7s. in the pound.†

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\* It is calculated that the expense to this country, of the late 25 years war, was £1800,000,000; and as a proof of the stagnation in trade, there was one day in July, in which not a single entry was made, either of import or export, in the books of the Custom house in London.

	£.	s.	d.
† In 1656 the poor rate for Tiverton parish, amounted	306	0	0
In 1671, .....	328	10	0
1682, .....	483	3	10½
1685, .....	604	11	8
In Land tax, or subsidy to King James the Second,....	59	9	6
In 1698, the Land tax amounted to .....	1362	4	2
In 1699, the Poor rate for the year was only .....	410	11	5½
While the amount of Rates and Taxes from Easter 1782, } to 1783, was .....	2184	10	0
House in Town, .....	4440		
April 5th, 1784, the Annual gross } rack rent of the parish of Tiver- } ton, as found on making a new } assessment to the poor, amount- } ed to .....	Fields about do. ....	954	
	Pitt Quarter, .....	3302	
	Clare ditto, .....	2178	
	Tidcombe ditto, .....	2891	
	Priors ditto, .....	2391	
	Castle Barton, .....	200	

Making a total of ..... 16,346

The plan of Assessment adopted in 1784 was, for every £20. of gross rack

An arrangement was also entered into, on the 31st December, with Mr. Upcott, a woollen manufacturer of Cullompton, to employ from 40 to 60 weavers, belonging to Tiverton parish, and as many spinners as should require work, receiving from the parish £20. per annum.

A. D.

1816.

The summer and autumn, also proved unusually wet, and much corn was in consequence spoilt. The season was cold, and in some parts of England snow fell in July.

On the 6th January, the Exe attained a greater height than had almost ever been remembered; occasioning considerable injury to the farmer and others, who came within the influence of the river.

1817.

An account reached Tiverton on the 6th of November, of the lamented death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales; and on the 19th, the day of her funeral, the solemnity observed, added to the dark and gloomy appearance of the day, spread a veil of mourning over all, while many a tear was shed for the loss of one who promised fair to shine in the annals of British history. There was service in the old Church at a quarter before seven, P. M. when an excellent Sermon was preached by the Rev. Perry Dicken.

Early in January this year, a meeting was

1818.

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rent a halfpenny per week. Fields and Overlands, three farthings; and Estates in general the same, making a total of ..... £1172 17 0  
G. g.

A. D. 1818. held at the Guildhall, to consider on the best mode of repairing Exebridge, when a plan was produced and adopted, on the report of the committee. It was agreed to widen the bridge at an expense of £700, 300 of which was to be paid by the parish, 200 by the Exebridge trust, and 200 was to be raised by subscription. In consequence of this arrangement, the first stone was laid by Mr. Follett, the oldest Feoffee of the Exebridge trust, in March 1818.

On the 26th July, there was no service in St. Peter's Church; the only instance of the kind that had occurred within the memory of man. The trees also, which ornament the east and west sides of the old Church yard, as well as those in the new, were, towards the latter part of this year, planted by Mr. Turner, one of the churchwardens.

Notwithstanding the cold and generally inclement state of the weather, the quantity of cider made during the autumn of this season, was greater than had been the case for ten preceding years; and Mr. Jarman, a respectable gentleman farmer then residing at Bickleigh, made between 400 and 500 hogsheads, which averaged from 30s. to 35s. each.

On the 17th of October, the large house in Fore street, built by B. Dickinson, esquire, 38 years previously, was sold by the late proprietor, his grandson, for £4500, to Mr. Reeves, landlord of the Tuns, and Mr. Chaplin, cabinet maker,

with a view of converting it into an Hotel; but the speculation was abandoned.\*

A. D.

On the 1st of July, the lease of the work-house, (held by the parish of Greenway's trustees,) expired on the death of Gideon Acland, and a new lease was granted for thirty-one years, at the former annual rent of £60. This property was afterwards purchased from the trustees, by the parish in 1836, at the price of £1000. The old work-house was pulled down, and the present Union erected, the particulars of which will be given hereafter.

1819.

On the 22nd of October, a case was heard in the Town hall, before the magistrates of the liberty, for the purpose of ascertaining if the maker of malt, under the new act, was justified in keeping or sending away, a quantity of malt to prevent incurring the extra duty. The decision was that the whole quantity, amounting to 515 bushels, belonging to Mr. Richards, and 117 to Mr. Abraham, was forfeited, but the Crown consented to take double the duty, and restore the malt.

The market tolls were let on the 29th October, this year, to Mr. Sellick, landlord of the Phoenix Inn, at an advance of £122 per annum, for a term of seven years, to commence at Lady day 1820, besides £8. land tax. For thirty years Mr. Beedle paid an annual rent of £30, and

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\* The average price of wheat during this year was about 8s. 1d. per bushel, and meat about 5½d.

G. g. 2.

A. D. afterwards £50. Mr. Brerton for four years £70,  
1819. Mr. Chilcott for fourteen years £150, and Mr.  
Sellick, for seven years previous to the last letting,  
£160, which was now advanced to £282.

It was agreed by the majority at a parish vestry, that St. Peter's Church should be new seated and repaired, for which purpose £1200 was to be borrowed, and repaid in five years. The new pewing and alterations were commenced on the 1st November, under the immediate superintendence of the churchwarden, Mr. Turner, and the work continued over the two succeeding years of 1820, and 1821. The flooring was levelled and thoroughly repaired; all the old and dilapidated sittings, excepting the pews belonging to the Lords of the Manor, were taken down, and newly erected with wainscot oak, on an uniform plan. The organ was removed to a new gallery erected to receive it, at the west end of the Church, that in which it had previously stood, being fitted up, at the expense of the Trustees, for the Charity school children, and a new gothic ceiling put in the centre aisle; the cost of which, amounting to £1967, was defrayed by the sale of some Church lands, and two Church rates.

The first sittings removed were those from the vestry to the north door, comprehending the corporation seats, called the old twenty-four, which were under the north gallery. Below the last seat, then belonging to Mr. Salter, was discovered a

large coffin containing a number of bones, and very near the surface.

A. D.

1819.

On the 30th, Slee's tomb was opened, to admit of an alteration in the steps at that place, and under the marble slab, several coffins were visible, the last of which was cramped with iron, and the gilt retained all the freshness of later days. In one of these receptacles for the dead, was a female figure in good preservation, with hair, which was described as auburn, 22 inches long. On the coffin were the initials M. H. (Mary Hall,) and by the register it appears she was buried in January 1727, aged 72.

A few yards to the west also, of the vestry door, on the supposed site of the Earl of Devon's chapel, was discovered a leaden coffin, in a state of decay, the shape of which was oblong, and narrower at the extremity, being 4 feet 2 inches in length, (in the clear,) 20 inches at the head, and 14 at the feet. When the vault was opened the skeleton was quite perfect, but although exposure to the air was very short, it fell immediately to pieces. On removing the panneling from the outer wall, in this direction, a variety of painted figures became visible; they were however plastered over.\*

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\* On the 13th November a Stag, being closely pressed by the hounds, found his way into Captain Fergusson's garden in Peter street, much to the astonishment of the inhabitants.

On the 25th December, died Will: Gammon, aged 102 years and six months. He had been an inhabitant of Waldron's alms-house for a considerable time.



A. D.

1821.

In consequence of the low price of provisions, it was ordered at a parish vestry held the 1st of February, that a deduction should be made in the allowance to each pauper.

On the 1st of March, an agreement was entered into for the survey of the parish, when Mr. Webber of Halberton, and Mr. Turner of Cadbury, were nominated surveyors, with others for the town, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  guineas per diem, with directions to report to Mr. Turner, churchwarden.

The subject of a new rate appears to have occasioned considerable discussion in the parish; and although many arrangements were made, it was as often upset; a state of things which continued to 28th November 1822, when a rate of 1s. 5d. in the pound was agreed to, being about equal to the old rate of 1296 weeks. This was also appealed against, and Mr. Heathcoat, whose factory

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† The occurrences of this year (1820,) are interesting in point of data, and are as follows;—

January 2nd. The Sunday evening Lecture commenced; on which occasion a sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Richards, Curate of Priors portion, and Fellow of Kings College.

20th. So much snow fell, that it lay 13 inches in the streets.

21st. Thos: Osgood was tried at the sessions for stealing models of machinery from the factory; on which charge he was found guilty, and sentenced to three months imprisonment.

April 10th. A fire broke out at Mr. Cosway's corn mill, (the property of Mr. Heathcoat,) which was burnt to the ground.

May 1st. The largest pig ever seen at Tiverton, was shown weighing 1456lbs.

had been originally rated at £26 per annum, was reduced to £6, and the first rate of 1s. was finally ordered on the 16th February, 1825.

A. D.

1821.

At the coronation of George the Fourth, which took place on the 19th July, the shops were closed, and a cold collation spread in the School green at 3s. 6d. per head, of which about 300 respectable persons partook. The bells rang, but there was little rejoicing among the lower orders, who appeared to reserve all demonstrations of *loyalty* until the 21st of August following, the day of Queen Caroline's funeral, when much display was made by the different societies in Tiverton, and some rioting and confusion was the consequence.

The 23rd of June this year, is remembered from the occurrence of a dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by wind and rain, which occasioned considerable damage.\*

1822.

About this period, Mr. G. Cosway became the tenant of a small manufactory in Westexe, the property of Mr. Wotton, in which he has since successfully carried on a trade in blankets, blanketings, flannels, and serges, and the quality of the manufacture, has obtained for him considerable credit. He has at present about 83 persons in employment, 40 of whom are weavers,

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\* The foundation stone of Pitt parsonage in St. Andrew street, was laid in August, under the directions of the Rev. J. Spurway, rector of Pitt portion.

- A. D. 38 work in the mill, and 5 combers, besides finding  
1822. occupation for 6 engines, 3 carders, 3 scribblers,  
3 billy's, 5 jenny's, and one fulling stall.

1823. On the 21st of March, a severe contest commenced between the Clergy and the parish, respecting the election of churchwardens; the former having nominated George Barne, esquire, according to usage, while the latter demanded the right of appointing Mr. Joseph Chilcott, and Mr. James Munday. A *caveat* was immediately entered against any other appointment, and legal steps were taken to support their claim; on the 23rd of April, a parish vestry was held, and a committee named, to defend the rights of the parish.

That law and general usage will justify the Rectors in the nomination of their own churchwarden, will admit of no doubt; but the Clergy refused to join in law proceedings, and the parish have since this period, had the nomination of both.

On the 16th of September, the factory people assembled to meet Mr. Heathcoat on his return from France; and on the 20th following, he gave an excellent dinner in the factory yard, consisting of beef, mutton, pork, baked and boiled puddings, &c., with beer, ale, and cider, to a number of his work people, amounting to upwards of 1600. A procession was formed, accompanied by flags, bands, &c. which perambulated the town; and the day passed with order and hilarity.

On the 23rd. September, the materials of the large brick-house in Fore Street, formerly in the possession of B. B. Dickinson, esquire of Knights-hays, were sold in lots and pulled down by the respective purchasers. A. D. 1823.

On the 29th March, a melancholy accident occurred to John Perram, only nine years of age, son of John and Mary Perram, whose death was occasioned by a fall from the battlements of the tower of St. Peter's church in this town, to whose memory a tomb-stone has been erected in the churchyard of St. George's chapel, against the east wall of the church. 1824.

It was agreed, on the 11th August, to continue the payment of £25. per annum to Mr. Upcott of Cullompton, who undertook the employment of as many poor weavers and spinners belonging to Tiverton parish, as required work.

At a meeting held on the 28th November, it was resolved that a house belonging to Mr. Bryant, adjoining the town hall, should be removed, and the space occupied by it thrown into St. George's churchyard. Towards the close of the year the opinion of Mr. Swabey was taken, as to whether the power of exercising a right over the ground in question rested with the Rectors, or the Parish, by whom it was decided that it was vested in the latter, and they accordingly, entered into an arrangement the year following, to have some vaults made of two sizes for the purpose of selling, the 1825.

H. h.

A. D. larger for ten guineas, and the smaller for eight.

1826. The general Election which occurred in October of this year, was an occasion of another trial of power on the part of the inhabitants to exercise the privilege of voting in the return of their representatives, acting on a conviction that the charter of 1724, had provided them with the power of doing so.\* Accordingly Messrs. Heath and Kennedy, two London barristers, issued an address, offering themselves as Candidates for the representation of the Borough; and the evening previous to the day of election, Mr. Kennedy arrived in Tiverton, and was welcomed by several of his friends and supporters, by whom he was on the following morning escorted to the Guildhall. Previously to their arrival, the Corporation, with the two former members, Lord Sandon and Mr. Ryder, had taken their places around the table, and from ancient custom no persons being admitted within the partition, it was sometime before a seat could be procured by Mr. Kennedy, which was at length obtained in the petty Jury box. The writ having been read by the Town Clerk, an attempt was made to propose Mr. Kennedy as a proper candidate for the representation, which was declared by the Mayor to be informal, and the votes of the Corporation being taken *seriatim*, a similar attempt was again made, which was negatived by the former members being declared

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\* See Note page 94, and page 97, et seq.

duly elected. On leaving the Guildhall, the unsuccessful candidate addressed a large concourse of persons from the raised pavement on Angel-hill, and although a petition against the return was threatened, no further steps were adopted.

A. D.

1826.

Several alterations had taken place within the Old and New Churches during the last three years; viz. 25th February, the seats belonging to Sir Henry Carew, baronet, were finished, and his coat of arms carved thereon; the portion occupied by other parts of the family having been completed a short time previously. The singing loft in St. George's chapel was altered, and the ceiling and lead of the roof repaired.

During the summer of this year also, the porch adjoining Greenway's chapel was removed and rebuilt, three new windows were put in, the roof properly repaired, and the door made wider. The last window was glazed 27th January, 1827. On the 27th July, a new ceiling was ordered to be put over the South aisle, according to a plan produced by Mr. Hedgeland.

1827.

During the course of the period from 1819, to the present time, when the alterations in St. Peter's church commenced, several boards, indicative of the benefactions which had been made to the poor of Tiverton from 1370 to 1808, were removed and have never been replaced. Some of them are under the belfry, others in the library over the vestry, and it is to be feared a portion

H. h. 2.

- A. D. of them have been destroyed. This is much to  
1828. be deplored, as a place might have been found  
where such interesting records could have reposed  
in safety.

- On May the 7th, the garden ground, South of  
1829. St. George's chapel, the property of B. B. Dickinson,  
esquire, was ordered to be purchased by the parish  
at a cost of £500, to be paid by instalments with  
interest, and the space be added to the churchyard.

Arrangements were also made on the 2nd.  
September, to lower the foot path on the north  
side of Gold street, from the Cross-keys to Lowman  
bridge, and to widen the road, which would effect  
considerable improvement in the highway, and  
produce great accommodation to the public.

1830. An order of vestry was recorded this year  
to ascertain what sum the parishes of Washfield  
and Stoodleigh would contribute towards the erec-  
tion of a good and substantial bridge across the  
stream at Swine-water, which separates the parishes  
of Tiverton and Washfield; and a proposal was  
made that they should pay one half of any future  
repairs.

In consequence of the great inconvenience  
experienced by the inhabitants and travellers from  
the position of the old market, (which was in  
common *parlance* called a shamble and pannier  
market, and arranged on each side of the Fore  
street,) it was determined at a public assembly of  
the inhabitants, to apply for an Act of Parliament

to authorize the removal of it, which bill received the Royal assent 10th June 1825 ; and a meeting of the parties, empowered to carry into effect an act passed the 6th, George 4th., entitled “an Act for removing the markets held within the town of Tiverton, and providing a market place within the said town, and regulating and maintaining the said markets,” was held on the 6th July of that year. In furtherance of this object, at a meeting held 21st January, 1829, arrangements were made for the purchase of the necessary houses and lands, consisting of Mr. Haydon’s premises in Fore street, at £2000 ; Mr. Marder’s garden and stables settled by a Jury at £350 ; Mr. Richards’s garden, court, slaughter-house, and stable at £200 ; Mr. Dunsford’s garden at £150 ; Mr. Boase’s garden at £100 ; Mr. Collard’s garden at £120 ; Mr. Charles Warren’s premises in Bampton street, at £600 ; a part of Mr. Lamotte’s garden at £300 ; and the Bowling green at £495 ; making a total, with the surveyors charge of £51. 4s. 7d. of £4366. 4s. 7d. and the whole plan was carried into effect at a cost of £8392. That part of the market appropriated to the sale of meat, fish, poultry, vegetables, fruit &c. was opened 8th June 1830, and the cattle portion on the 14th June 1831. The first tolls were collected on the 12th November 1830 ; and Mr. Payne rented the market for a year at £600, and £100 in addition in lieu of rates and taxes.

A. D.  
1830.

The means of carrying this desirable object into effect, was raised by shares at £50 each,



A. D. one of which was to be annually discharged with  
1830. interest, until the amount borrowed be liquidated ;  
after which the proceeds of the market will be for  
the use of the Market Trust ; the present Proprietors  
agreeing to pay them yearly £218. 15s. and £31.  
5s. (being an eighth,) to the Charitable Com-  
missioners as an equivalent for the old tolls.

1831. The early part of this year, it was deemed  
advisable by the principal gentlemen of Tiverton,  
to erect public ball, reading, and billiard rooms,  
sufficient for the wants and convenience of the  
town, the expense of which was to be defrayed  
by a certain number of shares. To promote this  
object, some gentlemen, deputed by the subscri-  
bers, attended a meeting of the market-committee on  
the 2nd March, having previously ascertained  
that the Commissioners were ready to dispose of  
the premises at the entrance of the market ; by  
whom it was finally arranged that the subscribers  
to the New Rooms, were to erect entrance gates  
from Fore street to enclose the market, and pay  
a further sum of £25, and £1. 2s. 5d. annually as  
a chantry rent, due to B. B. Dickinson esquire ;  
and the cost of the present public rooms a-  
mounted to about £3000. Mr. Heathcoat is at  
present the sole proprietor of this property, having  
purchased it of the Share holders in 1843.

A resolution was passed at a parish meeting  
held on the 1st. September to address Mr. Dickinson,  
requesting him to supply the parish with an abstract  
of his title to the garden in St. Andrew street,

purchased by them 7th May, 1829. At a subsequent period,\* application was made at a parish vestry, on behalf of Mr. Dickinson, for payment of interest due to him, for the purchase of the garden in St. Andrew street, which led to a resolution, that when the title was produced, the demand should be complied with: notwithstanding this arrangement, at a parish meeting held on the 3rd July, 1833, it was proposed and carried, that no contract or agreement with B. B. Dickinson, esquire, (for the purchase of the garden in question,) appearing on the parish books, and no abstract of title to the same having been delivered, it was determined to abandon the treaty. An amendment was proposed to the effect, that the contract entered into ought, in justice, to be completed as soon as possible, which was lost on a show of hands.

A. D.  
1831.

The general election that took place in April this year, was the last which occurred in Tiverton before the passing of the Reform bill, and it was attended, as might be expected, with more than usual excitement. On this occasion Mr. Ryder and Mr. Percival were returned as representatives of the Borough, the corporation declining to re-elect Lord Sandon, on account of his having expressed opinions which they considered adverse to their interests. On the opening of the town-hall, the crowd rushed in, and the election was conducted

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\* On the 20th of June, 1832.

- A. D. 1831. amid considerable riot and disorder. The church-wardens refused to allow the bells to be rung, and in the evening the effigies of both Members were paraded round the town, and afterwards burnt in Fore street. The members did not give their election dinner as usual, but presented the proprietors of the Subscription rooms with three beautiful Chandeliers.

In consequence of the reduced price of lace, and the low rate at which other manufacturers were working their machinery, Mr. Heathcoat came to the resolution about the end of September, of making a reduction in the wages of the lace workers, and notice was given to that effect. The announcement, however, produced considerable sensation, and an effort was made to avert it by a general strike on Monday 3rd October, and for the three succeeding weeks they remained in idleness, assembling every morning and evening at the top of Exeter hill, to consult and arrange the mode of proceeding, from whence they returned in regular procession to the town. In addition to the reduction of wages, the work people also complained of a Mr. Benjamin Wood, one of Mr. Heathcoat's managers, who had rendered himself unpopular, and an impression existed among them that his advice had, in some degree, been the means of regulating the conduct pursued towards them. Several attempts were made by the magistrates to effect a settlement of the question, but without avail; and Mr. Heathcoat having reason to fear, that

acts of violence would be resorted to, went himself to Lord Ebrington, the Vice-Lieutenant of the County, to acquaint him of the excited state of his workmen, and to urge his adoption of such measures as might be most likely to secure the peace and safety of the town. In consequence of an affidavit having been made by the parish officers, the authorities had sworn in a number of special constables previously to his lordship's arrival, who hastened to the spot, and every precaution was taken that appeared at the moment necessary. On the workmen becoming acquainted with these judicious proceedings, and infuriated by their distressed condition, all their funds being nearly, if not entirely exhausted,\* they determined, on Monday 24th October, on attacking Mr. Wood's house, and selecting the opportunity when Lord Ebrington had quitted Tiverton for Stoodleigh, the mob assembled in large numbers, with effigies and torches, and proceeding to the Leat where he resided, (but who prudently with his family, had secured his retreat to the factory,) after burning the figures before the door, they proceeded to acts of violence, and having with stones and other missiles broken the windows and thereby effected an entrance, they destroyed every part of the furniture, much of which was thrown into the leat, and having searched in vain for Mr. Wood,

A. D.  
1831.

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\* By the Magistrates directions, the overseers were occupied on Monday 24th October, in relieving the workmen's families.

I. i.

- A. D. 1831. the mob retired, and by degrees separated to their respective habitations. This unruly conduct lasted some time, during which no combined plan of resistance appears to have been organized, and although some individuals of the corporation, and others, exerted themselves to prevent this outrage, the work of destruction was completed before effectual aid was supplied. Considerable energy was afterwards used, and the town patrolled by special constables during the night. On the following morning an express was sent for the Yeomanry, who with Lieutenant Colonel Buller arrived in the evening,† and all further excesses were prevented. Several of the participators in this outrage were taken, committed to Exeter gaol, and at the following assizes sentenced to be imprisoned for various periods. In the mean time, all hopes of arrangement being at an end, Mr. Heathcoat was on the point of employing other people under protection of the military, when an offer was made on the part of the workmen to take the average price of labour as paid in similar factories. This offer was readily accepted, and a competent person was named by Mr. Heathcoat, and a second by the workmen; while the town authorities appointed two others to act as umpires, if the former should disagree. This deputation visited Barnstaple, Taunton, Chard, Nottingham, Chesterfield,

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† The Tiverton troop of First Devon Yeomanry, received an order to turn out about seven A. M., and were mounted and paraded in the Works by ten o'clock.

Derby, Loughborough, Leicester, and Tewkesbury, from whence they gained all the information in their power, and drew up a table shewing the average price of labour at the various places named. This document was laid before the public on their return home, but as the reduction on most descriptions of work was considerably below the former proposal made by Mr. Heathcoat, it failed to produce satisfaction among the men, who were, however, bound to abide by it. Thus peace was restored, and the factory became again the scene of active industry.

A. D.

1831.

A parish vestry was held on Monday 26th. December, for the purpose of conferring with the Commissioners of the Turnpike trust, "on the subject of the roads from the Dolphin Inn, to Waldron's alms-houses, situated in Wellbrooke, and from the eastern end of Broad lane, to the extremity of the building in Westexe, such roads not having been heretofore repaired by the parish, and which the surveyors of the highways now called on them to do. § A committee was formed, to whom powers were granted, in the event of their not coming to any satisfactory arrangement with the commissioners, to take council's opinion thereon, and submit the same to a future vestry meeting. In compliance with this decision, and the parties not agreeing, the opinion of Mr. Coleridge

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§ From the records of parish vestries.

A. D. 1831. was taken, who decided that the commissioners under the paving act, were liable to the repair of the roads in question, they therefore joined with the Trustees of the turnpike in forming and widening the road from Pinkstone's corner, to the end of Shillands, and adopting that as the future entrance from Barnstaple and Southmolton.

On the 4th January 1832, a committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. J. Wood, Mr. J. Barne, and Mr. Rendell, to confer with Mr. Daniel on the subject of Custom wood near Cove, a property in which the poor of Tiverton have a claim ;‡ and in this conference all parties evinced the most ready co-operation, and anxious desire for the adoption of any measures likely to produce a permanent benefit to them, with justice to the other interests concerned in it, but it is by legislative enactment alone that any permanent arrangement can be made, so as to give security to all parties. In November 1835, a committee was appointed consisting of five Rate-payers, to enquire into the extent of right vested in the poor, as regarded Bickleigh\* and Custom wood, "and what impediments exist to making that property more beneficial

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‡ See Charities, book 3, under the head 'Custom Wood.'

\* There is another wood called Custom Wood near Bickleigh, belonging to Sir Walter Carew, over which the poor have no controul whatever, although in 1839, a large quantity of coppice was cut and carried away, by some of the poor of Tiverton under a presumption, from the similarity of the name, that such a right belonged to them ;

to them,"† with directions to correspond with the charity, and poor law commissioners on the subject, but nothing could be done towards advancing the settlement of the question.

A. D.

On the 1st. March this year, Lord John Russell introduced into the House of Commons a bill purporting to reform the representation of the United Kingdom, which after much debate was defeated, and a new parliament assembled on the 14th of June. Shortly after the reform bill was again proposed in the following session, with a similar result, and on the 9th of May Lord Grey's administration retired from office. Their secession however, was of short duration; on the 18th following they resumed their places, the bill was again introduced, and this legislative enactment received the Royal assent on the 7th of June. A subject, involving as it did, such a variety of opinions, necessarily led to frequent disturbances; a settlement of this important question therefore, produced an anxious desire among all parties that tranquillity should be restored, for although many of the inhabitants disagreed in the general result, still it ought to be the practice and principle of every Loyal subject to assist in carrying out the approved acts of the legislature. This appeared to be the predominant feeling generally throughout

1832.

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they were, however, made sensible of their error, and no further excesses have been committed.

† See meetings of parish vestries.



- A. D. 1832. the Town, and the leading members of the corporation joined in a requisition to the mayor, Mr. Thomas Cosway, which was numerously signed by the inhabitants, to convene a public meeting at the Guildhall, which took place about the 18th of June, when it was resolved to commemorate the event by a Reform festival, and a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions and carry the wishes of the meeting into effect. Upwards of £300 was raised in a few days, which was disposed of in providing a substantial dinner for the labouring classes, and such was the arrangement that numerous poor persons, unable to attend, had provisions and a small sum of money conveyed to their houses, guided by a wish that all should partake of the good cheer provided by the benevolence of others. This occurred on Thursday 28th June, and the day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, cannons firing, &c. In the forenoon a procession was formed consisting of the several benefit Societies with their flags; the workmen at the factory, accompanied by lace banners; the school children two and two, who after perambulating the principal streets returned to the market house, where they did ample justice to the handsome and substantial fare prepared for them. About 1000 persons assembled on this occasion, and grace having been said, all hands were soon engaged in disposing of the excellent repast that had been liberally provided. In the evening a variety of amusements were exhibited in

Fore street, and both parties united in an anxious desire to be released from that state of agitation and excitement which had so long existed, displaying their better feelings in carrying out the day free from strife and animosity, and when the midnight watch was set, it threw the cloak of oblivion over the past, and all retired in peace and order to their respective homes.

A. D.  
1832.

The first return under the Reform bill took place in December, 1832, on which occasion (as well as on all subsequent elections,) commodious hustings were erected in the open space near St. Peter's churchyard, and Mr. Heathcoat and Mr. Kennedy were returned by a majority of votes, the constituency at that time numbering about 480.

Having mentioned the subject of a considerable disturbance among the factory workmen in 1831, and that much animosity was exhibited against Mr. Benjamin Wood, one of Mr. Heathcoat's principal clerks, I should here state that he made a claim on the parish for remuneration, in consequence of the injury he had sustained in the destruction of his furniture. The paving commissioners to whom the matter was referred, acting under a belief that they were not subject to such an impost, appointed a committee, and directed them to procure Council's opinion thereon, and if such opinion justified the commissioners in resisting the demand, they were to defend any law proceedings instituted against them. A sub-

- A. D. 1832. sequent meeting was, however, held on the 22nd February, at which it was considered desirable to enter into a compromise on the subject, and £52. 12s. was paid out of the liberty rate, to prevent the parish from being involved in an expensive lawsuit.

In March 1832, gas lamps were lighted for the first time in the town, which had been previously arranged at a meeting of the Paving Commissioners; and the account for new posts, gas lanthorns, iron frames, &c., amounting to £159. 1s. was ordered to be paid. In a short time after, the principal shops adopted a similar advantage. The gas works were first erected in 1822,\* under the superintendence of a Mr. Ikin, but being at that period on too limited a scale, they were afterwards enlarged. In 1831 a company was formed for lighting the town with gas, commencing with a capital of £1100 in 110 shares of £10 each, and an agreement was entered into between them and Mr. Heathcoat, for the necessary supply of gas at a stipulated price. The original sum charged to the public was 15s. per 1000 feet; a few years after it was reduced to 12s. 6d; in 1839 to 11s. 3d; in 1843 to 10s, and there is every probability, in consequence of the increased facilities of procuring Coal, that another reduction will soon be made. The public lamps have been at different

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\* See page 214, book 1.

periods increased, and a considerable extension of them is required at the present time. The refuse of the gas house, (the coke, which it is generally difficult to dispose of,) is used either in the foundry, or in some of the factory fires; and the gas tar, after being converted into pitch, is formed into asphaltic slabs for flooring and other purposes, and a good example of it may be observed in the British and Foreign schools.

A. D.  
1832.

On the 15th March at a parish vestry it was resolved "that the present mode of setting, letting and otherwise appropriating church seats is illegal, and that from and after Easter 1833, the same shall be discontinued."

"That in order to prevent unnecessary confusion, the present occupiers of seats shall continue to enjoy the same, free of all charges whatsoever, and in case any persons shall be in possession of more sittings than is necessary for the accommodation of themselves and families, the churchwardens shall allot them, and other vacant sittings, according to station &c."\*

An amendment was moved to the effect that no alteration should take place, but as the law appeared sufficiently clear on the subject, the motion was negatived without a division.

A meeting was called the following year,† however, for the purpose of re-considering the

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\* See parish vestry meetings.

† September 4th, 1833.

K. k.

A. D. 1832. foregoing arrangement respecting "the allotment of seats in St. Peter's Church, by which the parish lose nearly £200 a year, which sum has been invariably applied in aid of the church rate since the year 1662,† (and time out of mind before that period)", when it was resolved that

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† The following resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Parishioners in 1662, and is at present placed over the door of the belfry, but was formerly against the organ loft.

"The Customes of the towne and parish of Tiverton, as they have been delivered time out of mind, and confirmed by the parishioners of the said parish, at a publique meeting for sale of seats the first day of November, 1662, as followeth.

Imprimis. That whoever shall break the ground in the church for a burying-place, shall pay to the churchwardens five shillings for the use of the church.

Item. That all the seats in the parish's hand shall be published in the church three times, three several days before the day of sale, which day is publicly to be made knowne in the Church.

Item. That all seats put to sale shall be openly sold by the Churchwardens at the tombe-stone where the best proferer shall be heard.

Item. That whosoever shall buy a seat as aforesaid, shall enjoy the same for their life, they living in the said parish.

Item. That the party whose life the seat is held by is the proper owner, and not the partie yt shall contract for y<sup>e</sup> same when held by another life.

Item. That if any who hath the seat for his or her life shall depart out of our said parish, and be an inhabitant elsewhere one year and a day, his or her seat is forfeited, and the Churchwardens may put the same to sale again, Vnless the partie be unmarried or rated to the poor of our parish, for such may keep their seats notwithstanding.

Item. That a man deceasing having a wife, and have one or more seats in the church, she shall enjoy what seate she shall choose of her husband's during her life, if she be a parishioner, or rated to the poor.

as such a plan was "a breach of faith with those who purchased their life interest, and a greater evil to those who attend St. George's chapel, and dissenters, that the principle of free sittings should be abandoned, and the sittings let as usual." This resolution could not be carried into effect, although several attempts were made, as the law was decidedly adverse to the order of vestry in this case; those therefore who refused to comply with the demand could not be compelled to do so, and for many years past the attempt has not been repeated.

A. D.  
1832.

The early part of this year a considerable contest took place respecting the Organist's salary, and after considerable discussion, at various meetings, it was finally resolved "that from and after Michaelmas 1833, no salary was to be paid either by the parish, or from the church rate, but that the meeting earnestly recommend the same to be raised by subscription," § a practice that has been continued up to the present day.

On the 22nd March, an arrangement was entered into by the parish respecting apprentices, and the following scheme adopted; viz.,

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Item. That a woman can claim but one seat by her husband, though she may have had more than one husband.

Item. That any person having a seat in our Church may yield it into the parish, and the Churchwardens may sell the same, and the partie is to have halfe the money."

"Samuel Foote, and John Bailly were Churchwardens."

§ See parish vestry meetings.

K. k. 2.

- A. D. 1833. "The fine for refusing to take an apprentice being fixed by law at £10, that sum is followed as the amount of inconvenience in imposing a parish apprentice.

*Farms, Fields, and Tithes.* Every £100 of yearly value, to take one apprentice.

Every £50 and under £100, to take one apprentice, and to receive a contribution of 2s. in the pound from smaller tenements, with which it may be classed to make up £100 value.

Farms and Fields under £50 yearly value, to contribute and not take an apprentice except willing to do so, on receiving a contribution of £5 only from other properties. Farms to take a second apprentice when the number of children shall exceed one for each £100, and so on.

*Houses.* Every dwelling house or other building of the value of £7, and under £14, to be liable to take half an apprentice, or contribute £5 to any occupier under £14 rated value, taking an apprentice.

Every dwelling house, &c. not being a farm house, value £14 and not exceeding £30, one apprentice.

Every £20 above the first £30, one apprentice.

No lodger to take an apprentice, and only one to be bound to the same person in each year.

All persons refusing to abide by this scheme to take an apprentice."

At a later period, in consequence of some

informalities in the distribution of apprentices, a successful appeal was made against the preceding arrangement, and the practice of binding out poor children has been since abandoned.

A. D.  
1833.

A resolution was also made on the 3rd. July "that in future, any parishioner requiring permission to break ground in either the Church or Chapel yards of this parish, for the purpose of building walled graves, vaults, or caves, shall pay to the churchwardens the undermentioned fees, to be applied in aid of the Church rate.

	£.	s.	d.
For making a vault to contain			
4 persons abreast, .....	4	4	0
3 — ditto, .....	3	3	0
2 — ditto, .....	2	2	0
1 — ditto, .....	1	1	0*
A walled or boarded grave."..	1	0	0

By the report of a committee, appointed at a meeting of the parish, held 25th January, 1832,

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\* A board, containing the following scale of charges, is at present under the belfry, and I find from Dunsford's History that it was formerly fronting the chancel-door.

1783.

"Martin Dunsford and John Baker, wardens.

	£.	s.	d.
For every parish burial,.....	0	1	6
For every day labourer, or person in a club, .....	0	3	6
For every gentleman and tradesman, or master of business,	0	5	0
For every person buried in a vault,.....	0	5	0
For every vault dug in the church-yard, and for the burial inclusive,.....	1	1	0
For the burial of a child, viz. from an infant to 14 years of age, .....	0	2	6



A. D. 1833. and produced the February following, it was remarked amongst the various items of public expenditure, that the sum paid for keeping the Fire Engines in repair, (which had amounted during the past year to £101. 12s. 8d. and for the five preceding years to an average of £50. annually, the whole of which had been paid by the churchwardens out of the church rate,) was to be regarded as a considerable tax on the parish; and as no portion of it had been borne by the different fire offices, whom they considered ought to bear the largest share of the burthen, it was recommended that application should be made to the respective offices for some contribution towards the maintenance and use of these engines. In consequence of this report, letters were addressed to the different fire offices, and the answers produced at a vestry meeting held the 17th May, on which occasion a list was ordered to be drawn up, of the different offices with whom insurances were effected in the town and parish, distinguishing those who had refused to contribute; and such list to be submitted to the inhabitants of the parish for their consideration.

In compliance with this recommendation, on the 4th June 1832, a meeting was convened by the mayor, William Dickinson esquire, (in pur-

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	£.	s.	d.
Ringing and tolling the bell one hour to be included in the above charges, but to pay for every hour more, and so in proportion, .....	}	0	1 0
Every grave to be five feet deep, but if any person chooses it deeper, to pay per foot extraordinary, .....			
Every person desiring and having the minute bell tolled, to pay extraordinary, .....	}	0	1 0'

suance of a requisition,) “to take into consideration the present state of the fire engines, and of adopting measures for the management and repairs thereof,” which was attended by most of the respectable inhabitants of the town; on which occasion it was “resolved that the following resolutions be adopted and immediately acted upon.”

A. D.  
1834.

“1st. That in consequence of the great Fire which happened on the 5th of June 1731, by which 298 houses were burnt down, and vast quantities of other property destroyed, an Act of Parliament was passed, intituled “An Act to prevent dangers from Fire in the town of Tiverton;” which, amongst other provisions, authorised the purchase of Fire Engines, and the making of rates for that and other purposes therein set forth.”

“2nd. That it is not less important at the present time than it was 100 years since that the Fire Engines should be provided and kept in good repair, so as to be available and effective for extinguishing any Fire which may break out, and to prevent its spreading so as to destroy or endanger the whole town, as was the case when there were no Engines to check its progress.”

“3rd. That in order to provide a Fund for repairing, proving, and working the Engines, a Subscription be made upon a scale of or in proportion to the parochial assessments upon houses, buildings, and other combustible property, in the town and parish of Tiverton, with such modifications as may be found necessary.”

A. D.      "4th. That any persons who shall refuse or neglect to pay to this fund in the aforesaid proportion, except such (if any) as the committee after-mentioned shall think proper, shall not be considered to have any claim upon or right to the use and benefit of the Engines in case of an accident by fire."

1834.

"5th. That the Offices which effect assurances against damage by fire, provide Engines in many towns of less importance than Tiverton, and that, as those Offices are more interested in the speedy extinguishing of fire than any individual inhabitant, in proportion to the number and amount of the insurances effected by them, it is reasonable that such Offices should either provide Engines in Tiverton or contribute to this fund."

"6th. That a Committee be appointed to carry these resolutions into effect; who are authorised to cause the present Engine to be repaired; to ascertain and determine what rate or subscription (upon the scale of the parochial rates) will be required to defray the expense for one year, and to cause such rate or subscription to be collected; to apply to the several Fire Offices or their agents, requesting them either to provide Engines, or contribute to the expenses of those belonging to the town; with full power, in conjunction with the agents of such Fire Offices as may contribute towards this fund, to appoint one or more person or persons to have the command and controul of the Engines, and also proper people to work the same; and to order and determine all other

matters relative to the repairing, managing, and working the Engines for the ensuing year." A. D. 1834.

"7th. That in order to indemnify and save harmless the said Committee, all parties present at this meeting do engage to pay their share of such expenses as may be incurred for one year, according to the scale aforesaid."

"8th. That the Committee consist of the gentlemen now present:\* any five of whom shall be competent to act."

"Resolved, that a Case be stated for the opinion of some Counsel, to ascertain whether under the powers of the Tiverton Fire Act a Rate can be made upon the inhabitants of the town, to defray the expenses of buying, keeping, and repairing the Fire Engines, as mentioned in the Act; that such case be so stated by Mr. Partridge and Mr. Wood; and that the expenses attending the same be defrayed in the same manner as the expenses of putting the Engines in repair; and also to ascertain whether, if the Rate can only be made by the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Guardians of the Poor, that body could be again brought into operation, so as to carry into effect the powers of the before-mentioned Act."

In conformity with the second resolution, a case was drawn up and submitted to Mr. Sergeant Merewether, for his opinion thereon, who gave the

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\* Consisting of 42.

A. D. following judgment; that "any provision merely  
1834. for the benefit of an individual may be renounced  
by the person for whose benefit it was intended;  
and a charter granted to a corporation may be  
abandoned by the whole body; but an act of par-  
liament passed for a public purpose cannot be re-  
pealed or defeated by dissuetude; he was therefore  
of opinion that the Hospital act of 1698\* is still  
in force and might be carried into effect, parti-  
cularly as it was for a long time acted upon, and  
the object of it has since 1769 been effected by  
other means, so as to render the provisions of it  
unnecessary."

"He considered that the governor, deputy governor, and guardians of the poor might make any necessary rate for buying and repairing fire engines as the Mayor and Justice might think necessary; and when the occasion occurs, may make a rate to recompense the owners of any houses for damage done to them under the authority of that act." He was further of opinion that "if the Mayor and Justice, or two Capital Burgesses, acting under the fire-act so as to direct any house to be damaged, they were, he thought, bound also to act fully under it, and make a rate to reimburse the owner."† In conclusion he recommended that every endeavour should be used by the inhabitants to settle these matters by themselves,

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\* See appendix, No. 14.

† See note page 157, book 1.

to avoid all doubtful litigation, and “generally to act upon the provisions of the Fire act and not in the irregular mode of allowing those expenses to be paid out of the Church rates.” A. D. 1834.

(Signed) *Henry Alworth Merewether,*

Chancery Lane.

January 13, 1834.

On the 11th March an opinion was drawn up for the consideration of Mr. Coldridge, by order of the trustees, to ascertain whether the market was liable to the payment of poor rates, whose opinion was, that as the proceeds were applied to charitable purposes, they were not subject to such an impost. The parish remaining dissatisfied, however, with this decision, on the 23rd of September following, directed that a case should be drawn by Mr. Barnes of Exeter, and submitted to the judgment of Sir William Follett, who fully coincided in the opinion previously delivered by Mr. Coldridge. It was subsequently proposed that a petition should be presented to parliament, and that a committee, then appointed, should use every endeavour to induce other parishes similarly circumstanced, to do the same, praying for some amelioration in the law regarding such cases; and further to wait on the market trustees and propose their paying £10. per book instead of £14, which was of course refused, and the subject dropped. 1834.

In the course of June the Municipal reform bill passed the two houses of parliament, and the

L. 1. 2.

- A. D. first election in Tiverton under the new act occurred 25th December.  
1835.

The New poor Laws were also brought into operation, and were first acted on at Tiverton the 30th November. The Union comprehends 27 parishes, and the Board of Guardians assemble at Tiverton every Tuesday, to regulate the necessary business connected with the poor of the parish. The cost of the present building amounted to £8800, the money for which purpose was borrowed, to be repaid by annual instalments. The building was commenced in 1837, and first occupied at Michaelmas 1838.

- On the 17th February, at a parish meeting, it was decided to make application for the consecration of the ground near St. George's chapel, which had been cleared and occupied by vaults\*  
1836. in 1825, and to procure plans for the alteration of the two galleries in the said chapel, with a view of giving further accommodation to the public: it was also decided, that an appeal should be made to Mrs. Peard's trustees, for the surplus interest on her benefaction, who refused to comply with the request; and in March following it was resolved to prepare a copy of the late Mrs. Peard's will and deed of settlement, and submit it to the Commissioners of Public Charities for their judgment. The funds of this charity have been retained by the trustees, and disposed of according

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\* See page 234. book 1.

to their own judgment, in compliance with the directions contained in the will and deed of settlement.

A. D.  
1836.

In consequence of the long and meritorious services of Mr. Samuel Clarke, who filled the office as governor of the workhouse for 47 years, it was resolved; at a parish meeting held on the 31st of March, that the sum of £30 per annum should be allowed him for the remainder of his life; but as this arrangement was found to be illegal, a sum of money was in consequence collected and an annuity of £20 per annum purchased for him; and as a surplus still remained, it was agreed to place that at his own disposal.

On the 25th January the Improvement Commissioners granted the trustees of the Independent meeting house, permission to remove the steps on Angel hill, leading from Peter street to Exebridge, which was executed at a cost of £39. 3s. 4d., the commissioners undertaking to complete the road and foot-path for a portion of the way, and to take all the available materials. On this being completed, the present Independent school and dwelling house adjoining were erected. The land on which these buildings stand, (late the property of Mr. Venman,) was purchased for £515; the cost of building the school and fittings up amounted to £668. 18s. 3d. and the dwelling house £790. 16s. 8d. making a total, (including £2210, the original outlay for building the chapel,)\* of £4184. 14s. 11d.

1837.

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\* The chapel was commenced in 1829, and completed the following year.



A. D.            On the 8th August a committee was appointed,  
1838.            at a meeting of the Paving Commissioners, for the purpose of ascertaining, "what the average expenditure had been for the repair of the streets, &c., which was found to be, as nearly as could be calculated, £150 per annum: the length of the streets to be repaired being 2 miles, 5 furlongs, and  $27\frac{1}{2}$  perches, without including the bridge-boundaries, which is under the controul of the Surveyor appointed by the Liberty.

1839.            On the 4th February Messrs. Watkins and Williams, the contractors for the repair of the streets, lanes, &c., within the town of Tiverton, were directed in pursuance of the 19th Section of the 34th George 3rd., C. 52, "to search for, cut, dig, gather, get, and take away any gravel, stone, sand, or other materials, out of a certain waste or common, called or known by the name of Custom-wood, in the parish of Tiverton, for paving, amending or improving, and keeping in repair the carriage ways, and foot ways of the streets, lanes, passages, and places, or any part thereof, in the town of Tiverton." In pursuance of this act, the contractors have been in the habit of digging and drawing stone from Custom-wood, and still continue to do so, when required, on application to the commissioners of the Paving trust.

                 In November 1834, a subject was discussed as to whether the right rested with the parish of repairing "a part of a certain highway called Featherbed lane, leading from Uplowman to Bampton,"

which after considerable discussion was decided to form no part of the Tiverton parish road, consequently they refrained from taking any measures respecting it. A. D. 1839.

On the 26th April the following year, the subject was again brought under the consideration of the Vestry, and a proposal made that the waywardens should take the said road under their charge, and repair it forthwith, applying to Hants-ham parish for any contribution they might think proper to give. The question remained undecided until the 22nd August, 1839, when the vestry came to a final resolution that the parish of Tiverton had nothing to do with the said lane.

The obelisk was erected in the course of this year on Angel-hill. The arrangements were made by a committee appointed at a public meeting, and the object was effected by subscription, at a charge of seventy pounds. 1840.

In consequence of a provision in the tithe commutation bill, which passed into a law in 1837, rendering it imperative to have a survey of every parish, it was agreed on the 14th February, that the tender of Messrs. Williams, Reed, and St. Aubyn, of Hay Ladock in Cornwall, be accepted under the condition they should provide "one accurate second class Map and book of reference of such parts of the parish of which the owners have no maps, &c., at 3d. per statute acre. To revise and average all correct maps existing, so as to form one complete map, at 2d. per acre; and to add all the 1841.

- A. D. houses, buildings, gardens, streets, &c., for £25.  
1841. The map to be drawn on a required scale of 3 chains to an inch, and the whole to be completed in seven months. Any number of these maps &c., to be supplied at one halfpenny per acre each copy."

On the 14th June a meeting was held at the Townhall, to take into consideration the subject above mentioned, and as the contractors there named had not complied with the terms of their agreement, the meeting came to the resolution of rejecting the tender, and declared their original treaty with Messrs. Williams, Reed, and St. Aubyn, to be wholly at an end. The subject being again open to competition, Mr. William Richards, land surveyor of Tiverton, made a fresh tender, which was accepted by the meeting, on behalf of the parish, in terms as follows;—"To measure and map the town and parish of Tiverton, on first class principles, on a scale of 3 chains to an inch, and to make three fair copies of such maps, and the book of reference of the entire parish, at 6d. per acre. To make a distinct map of the town as included in a circle half a mile distant from Coggan's-well in Fore street, of one chain to the inch, for the sum of £35. To complete the whole of the measuring and one map within ten months from the time of signing the contract, and to finish the remainder within two months after." The contract was signed by Mr. Richards, on the 13th July 1841: the survey commenced the 26th February following, and the whole of this undertaking has been completed in

a manner that reflects great credit on the contractor, who appears to have spared neither trouble or expense in the execution.\*

A. D.

1843.

In 1841, very extensive alterations were commenced in St. George's chapel, under the direction of Mrs. Peard's trustees, and the following plan was adopted at a meeting held 29th January; viz.—that the pews in the body of the church, the pulpit, and reading desk be taken down, and rising seats erected adjoining the North and South walls for the National school children, and poor persons. To reduce the middle aisle from eight feet nine inches, to five feet five, by which one sitting on each side will be gained, and to alter the present unusually wide seats six inches each, leaving room for 21 pews to be erected on either side instead of 17. By this arrangement 74 sittings will be gained in the centre part of the church, and the rising seats against the North and South wall, will provide 120 sittings in addition to those the children had previously occupied in the middle aisle.

The whole of this plan was carried into effect, with the addition of alterations in the gallery, and a new vestry, at a cost of about £310; this sum which was borrowed, will be paid with interest, in about ten or twelve years, by the increased rent

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\* The commissioners refused to accept the general map of the parish containing the five portions, and required three maps of each portion separately, which the parish has supplied.

M. m.

- A. D. of the new sittings, which are charged at from 2s.  
1842. to 10s. each.

On this occasion the roof underwent a thorough repair, and the ceilings and pillars in the side aisles were raised so as to afford increased ventilation, and considerable improvement was effected; the expenses attending which, amounting to about £1500, were defrayed by Mrs. Peard's trustees out of the interest arising from her benefaction, which expressly provided for the repair of the roof.

To enable these improvements and alterations to be carried into effect, the service in St. George's church was suspended from the 15th August 1841, to May 15th 1842, and this deficiency was supplied by services being held at St. Peter's, four times each Sunday; at nine o'clock, and half-past one for St. George's chapel, and eleven, and half-past three for St. Peter's church, leaving the lecture at the usual hour.

In the course of this year also, a considerable improvement was effected in the parish road at Craze-Lowman, which, from its bad, and in some respects dangerous state had long required attention. A bridge of two arches was built over the river at the expense of the chief proprietor of the neighbourhood, I. F. Gwynne esquire, by whom it is to be kept in repair, and the remainder of the road was raised and widened, the whole expense of this improvement amounting to £258. 8s. 3d.

1844. The Bristol and Exeter rail-road was opened

for public traffic on the 1st May, and the Tiverton Road station is erected at Park farm, distant about five miles from the town. The survey which was made by this Company,\* comprehended a branch to Tiverton, which it is hoped and believed will be carried into effect either during this or the next year.

A. D.

1844.

On Wednesday the 13th November, the Exe rose to a greater height than had been remembered since 1809; and in a house in Westexe where the progress of the water was particularly remarked, it rose twenty-two inches higher than it had done since that period. The rail road, near the first wooden bridge was so much injured that passengers were obliged to leave the train at Stoke Canon, and proceed by other conveyances to Exeter; and at Cow-

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\* This Company held their first meeting at Bristol 2nd July 1836, (which was only six weeks after the act had passed, and eight months from the first projection of this important and extensive undertaking,) at which a report was produced stating that within this brief period, a line of 75 miles had been surveyed, together with a branch of five miles to Tiverton. It appeared also that the original intention of the projectors was to open the branch from Bristol to Taunton, and from Cullompton to Exeter, in the first instance, leaving the intervening space a longer time for execution. The report also stated that the expenditure in surveys, &c., to that period amounted to £25,847. 15s. 1d., including the expense of procuring the act of parliament; and the capital was to consist of £15,000 shares at £2. 10s. per share.

It is generally calculated that the expense attending the formation of this Rail Road from Bristol to Exeter, exclusive of the Tunnel, was from 12 to £14,000 per mile. The White-ball tunnel is imagined to have cost about £56 a yard; and as its extent is five eighths of a mile, the expenditure on that portion of the line, must have been about £50,000. It is now considered, from the great experience and improvement in tunneling, that the same might be effected for nearly one fifth less.

M. m. 2.

- A. D 1844.. ley bridge the water ran two feet over the rail. The interruption, however, was of short duration, as the train passed to Exeter on the Friday following. A small bridge, between Bickleigh and the turnpike gate received so much injury that travelling over it was suspended for some days, and the loss of property was considerable. This rise was occasioned, it is supposed, by the melting of a heavy fall of snow on Exmoor, as neither the Lowman or Culm were in the least affected.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Having thus brought to a close, the various incidents and records which connect the history of Tiverton, from the earliest period to the present time, it only remains to make a few observations, arising out of the position which this town filled as a place of great mercantile prosperity in former years : and although calamities by fire and disease, checked the current of enterprize, and laid desolate the habitations of both rich and poor, the records that remain form ample testimony of the wealth and pride which at one period ranked this town as one of great commercial influence. Amid the various sources that happily exist, beyond the written records of bye-gone days, we may enumerate *tokens*, as a mark of prosperity in trade ; and of these, many have been recorded of Tiverton. A few have fallen into my possession, all of which will be given in the second volume. The tombs of many of the merchants also, as well as the screen, and some of the capitals in St. Peter's church, &c., have preserved

to the present generation, a variety of merchants staples, a badge that marks the possessors as having borne a position in the mercantile world of considerable importance.

A. D.  
1844.

The etymology and precise meaning of the word *Staple* is involved in much obscurity. "It is by the author of *Essays illustrative of the hall of John Halle*," conceived to have "its primary origin in the Saxon word *Stapel*, signifying, a loop of iron to receive a hasp or bolt, or a padlock;" while Lord Coke has written that "*Staple*, anciently written *Estaple*, cometh of the French word *estape*, which signifies a mart or market;" and at an early period, that particular part of a mercantile town, where merchandize was exposed for sale, was locally denominated the staple, or mart; and thus an exporter of merchandize was called a "Merchant of the Staple." "It has been said," says the Rev. Edward Duke,\* "that there was a commercial society known by the denomination of the *Merchants of the Staple*; that it had its origin in the year 1248, and possessed the regal form of a corporation before the 12 of Edward 2nd." A. D. 1319; but if such a society ever existed, at this early period, there appears great probability of its having been dissolved; for it has been recently remarked, in "*Illustrations of Monumental brasses*," that "as the capture of Calais was the cause of the incorporation of this company so was its re-capture of its fall. It lingered on through the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and James

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\* Page 59.



- A. D. 1844. 1st., under the title of ‘Merchants of the Staple of England,’ and then became extinct.” It should, however, be remarked, that the respective dates accompanying these badges, bear ample testimony of their having existed more than a century before the commencement of Elizabeth’s reign, and it appears very probable they may date their origin to the time of Edward the 3rd.

By the statute of the staple, made 27. Edward 3rd. A. D. 1353, it was directed “that the staple of wools, leather, woolfells, and lead, growing, or coming forth within our said realm, shall be holden at Newcastle upon Tyne, York, Lincoln, Norwich, Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Winchester, Exeter, and Bristol,” and the mayor in these towns was termed *the Mayor of the staple*; to one of which all merchandize, “as well old as new which shall be carried out of the said realm, shall be first brought to the said Staples,” where it received the mayor’s seal; and as every merchant in the transfer of his commodities, was obliged to take an oath to maintain the Staple laws, so he became a *Merchant of the staple*. The peculiarity, and in some respects the similarity of these marks, (*see plate*,) leads to a belief that the merchant here conveys his righteous hope that he engages in his mercantile transactions with honor and integrity, “trading beneath the Cross, enlisted under the Banner of his Saviour; and that he enters on his commercial dealings with the confidence of a Christian.”

END OF THE FIRST PART.



### **Overton Staple Mark**

*Copied from the Screen in St Peter's Church*



*The Staple mark of John Caladron Merchant  
Copied from his Almshouses in Wellbrook  
The Staple mark on his Tomb in St Peter's  
Church bears date 1579.*



*The Staple mark of John Greenway Merchant  
Copied from an ancient Deed bearing  
date the 25 September 22<sup>nd</sup> Henry 8<sup>th</sup>  
Greenways Staple is also frequently re-  
peated in the Cornice of his Chapel both  
internal and external, on the Capitals of  
some of the Pillars in St Peter's Church on  
the Screen and on his Almshouse Chapel.*



*The Staple mark of John Prowse Merch<sup>t</sup>  
He died 3 September 1585.  
Copied from his grave stone in St  
Peters Church.*





*The Staple mark of Valentine Hartuoll Merchant  
Sometime Mayor of Tiverton, who died  
in March 1644.*

*Copied from his grave stone on the  
floor of the South Aisle in S<sup>t</sup> Peters Church.*



*The Staple mark of George Slee Merchant  
Who died September 1. 1613.*

*Copied from the 3 NW Pillars of the  
Centre Aisle in S<sup>t</sup> Peters Church.*



*The Staple mark of George Huckle Merchant  
Who died April 11. 1632.*

*Copied from his grave stone on the  
floor of the South Aisle in S<sup>t</sup> Peters Church*



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**LORDS OF THE MANOR.**

**PART 2.**

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# HISTORICAL MEMOIRS, &c.

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## BOOK II.

### THE LORDS OF THE MANOR.

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**I**N reverting to the earliest period of British History, it does not become our province to enter the field of disquisition, or attempt to trace the origin of the first inhabitants of this Island. The story of Brutus may be rejected as fabulous to make room for the introduction of the Cimbri; while some may trace, with Cæsar, Diodorus Siculus, and others, the earliest settlers in Britain from among the inhabitants of Noah's Ark.

In this wide field of discussion, and food for enterprising Historians, it would be well to leave the reader his own choice; and should he fall into the opinions formed and expressed by the learned Mr. Camden, although he may be in error, he will have multitudes to countenance his belief.



At the period of the Roman Conquest, the British are described as a generous, warlike, and brave people, yet barbarous, and idolatrous in their habits and opinions as well as the rest of their neighbours. They were tall and well made; scanty in dress, which when used, consisted only of skins; not addicted to intemperate habits, yet peculiar and coarse in their customs and manners, particularly as regarded their community of wives. The religion known and practised by them, was of the lowest order, being left entirely to the direction and influence of the Druids, who were their priests, and possessed great, and indeed, absolute authority among them. They were swayed by the most evil superstitions, practising their rites in dark groves, or other secret recesses, to throw a veil of mystery over their religion; and the power possessed by them, was directed to personal advantage; while the Bardi, or Bards, an inferior order of Druids, by verse and songs preserved alone, the most celebrated names, and principal events of passing generations.

The civil government was in the hands of petty Princes, who in time of war, selected an able General, or leader, from among themselves; and in the case of the Roman invasion, they appointed Cassibelanus, the governor of the Trinobantes, who is called by Speed, "the most worthy among the British Kings."

After the conquest, the Roman Emperors divided England into four provinces; which, by the

Saxons were increased to twelve; over each of these they placed a chief or head who was responsible to a general assembly.

Towards the end of the sixth century, the elements of Christianity were first sown in Britain;\* and the establishment of the Saxon Heptarchy, provided, if not a more secure, at least a more regular form of government. We must, however, date the foundation of a more prosperous state of

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\* The absolute time when the Christian doctrine was first taught in Britain, is variously stated by different historians, which was doubtless at a very early period. It has obtained general belief among the best historians, that Christianity was preached in England soon after our Saviours death; but whether by the first gentile convert Cornelius, St. Peter, Simon Zelotes, or Joseph of Arimathea, is difficult to say. It has, however, been asserted, and possibly with considerable claim to credit, that St. Paul was the first who preached the gospel in Britain; as it appears certain that this apostle, during the eight years between his first imprisonment at Rome, and his return to Jerusalem, propagated the christian religion in several places, "especially in the Western Countries."

The history of the most noted Ecclesiastics of the British Church, is confined almost entirely to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales; the wanton persecution of the Christians, on the first arrival of the Saxons in England, as conquerors, having swept away nearly every trace of Christianity from the other parts of the kingdom. The Churches that were supposed to have existed, (at that period, and for centuries after, built doubtless of wood,) were levelled with the ground, and the preachers, and promoters of Christ's doctrines, were hunted like wolves from place to place, or slain on the Altars their piety had raised. It is believed, however, that British Bishops not only existed, but were present at the council of Nice, in 325, and with a great probability of truth, as there is sufficient evidence of three British Bishops having been present at the council of Arles twenty-two years later. From about this period, to the close of the sixth century, but little is known of the British Church, beyond the history of a few eminent divines, who passed their lives in extending to others the blessings of Christianity. To Lucius, and Constantine the great, has been ascribed the chief cause of

this kingdom to the wise and prudent laws introduced by Isca and Offa;\* the measures adopted by Egbert; and the salutary and judicious legislation of Alfred the Great. He availed himself of some years of tranquility, during which Britain was free from the incursions of the Danes, to remedy the existing disorders both in Church and State. Having divided England into Counties, Hundreds, and Tythings, to afford greater facility in preserving order, he instituted three separate councils, through

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extending the Christian religion in England, at that early period, while to Austin, the first archbishop of Canterbury, and his followers, under the powerful support of Ethelbert, King of Kent, belongs the merit and perseverance of introducing Christianity among the English Saxons, which was commenced A. D. 597.

The Christian Church, as established and preached by the Apostles, immediately after the death of our Saviour, was pure and perfect, in which state, we have every reason to believe, it continued during their lives; but if we contemplate the state of that Church at the period of which we are now speaking, we shall, unhappily find it disfigured by errors and abuses, and degenerated, in many instances, into gross superstitious observances.

\* The civil division of the territory of England into counties, counties into hundreds, and the hundreds into tithings or towns, (a division that seems to owe its origin to King Alfred,) was instituted to prevent the rapines and disorders which formerly prevailed in the realm, tithing taking its name from the Saxon, because ten freeholders with their families composed one; and at the head of each tithing, an officer was appointed called the tything-man, (an office bearing a strong resemblance to constables of the present day,) who was appointed to preside over the rest, and was held responsible for the conduct of those over whom he presided.

"Tithings, Town, or Vills, are of the same signification in law; and are said to have had each of them, originally a church and celebration of divine service, sacraments and burials. To several of these towns there are small appendages belonging, called hamlets, which are taken notice of in the statute of Exeter, (14 Ed. 1.) which makes frequent mention of entire vills, demi-vills, and hamlets." See *Blackstone*, vol. 1. p. 115.

which all public measures were to pass, ending with the general assembly of the nation, called in Saxon, Wittena-gemot.\* He introduced into the Saxon legislation, not only the decalogue, but the principal provisions of the Mosaic legislation, with such modifications as were necessary to adapt them to the Anglo-Saxon manners. He collected together and committed to writing, the regulations his ancestors had established, selecting such of them as he approved, and rejecting the rest.

A. D.

890.

He instituted also the various grades in society, which were distinguished by office or possession. Next to the King, Queen, and Princes of the Royal blood, came the Dukes, Earls, and Thanes of the first degree, afterwards called Barons, forming a powerful body, which by the feudal system as invested with a control, which they, in more than one instance, exercised by setting bounds to royal authority. It is of this noble line we are now about to speak ; and although the manor of Tiverton, was not absolutely personal property, still we have the authority of Dugdale, Risdon, Magna Britannia, and others, for believing, that by reason of their office as Dukes, or Earls of Devonshire, they had the control of all lands coming under the denomination of 'Terra Regis.'

With this view, we shall commence a long and illustrious line of those who had really, or

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\* See part 1. p. 8.

A. D. by virtue of office, the manor of Tiverton, with the first mentioned by Dugdale.

851. *Karl*, (Speed calls him Earl Ceorle,) Duke or Earl of Devonshire, who in 851, "fought valiantly against the Pagan-Danes which did then infest this kingdom,\* and obtained a great victory over them at Winbourne in Dorsetshire."†

878. *Odda*, (sometimes called Oddune,) Earl of Devon, in the reign of Alfred 878, was, with a small body of brave men, besieged in Kenwith Castle, (believed to be the place now called Hannaborough Castle, and situate near the confluence of the rivers Taw and Torridge, in north Devon,) to which he had retired on the approach of the Danish army under their celebrated chieftain Hubba, to avoid the fury of the first attack. "It had no stronger fortification than a Saxon wall, but Ubbo found that its rocky situation made it impregnable against all assault

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\* "The Danes are called by English historians, indifferently Getes, Goths, Juttes, Norwegians, Dacians, Danes, Swedes, Vandals, and Frieslanders, their armies being composed of these several nations," (*Rapin.*) The Danes, however, by which name they are generally known, made their first descent on England, in the kingdom of the West-Saxons, during the reign of Brithrick, 787. They appeared more in the form of Maurauders, or Pirates, than as a conquering army, being divided into separate bands, each acting independently, and under no general control. This mode of warfare was very harassing to the English, as their island was liable to attacks on every side, and a treaty with one band, was not binding on another.

† *Dugdale*. Some historians, have stated this action to have occurred at Winleashore in Devonshire, near the mouth of the Tamar.

except at the eastern point. He also remarked that no water was near it, and consequently that a short siege would reduce the inhabitants to every misery of thirst and famine. He preferred, therefore, the certain victory of a blockade to a bloody attack, and surrounded it with his followers. Odun saw the extent of his distress, and the inevitable certainty on which the Pagans calculated, and determined on a vigorous sally. It was bravely executed. While the dawn was mingling with the darkness, Odun pierced at once to the tent of Ubbo, slew him and his attendants, and turning on the affrighted host, destroyed the largest part. An immense booty rewarded the victors, among which, the capture of their magical standard, the famous Reafan,† was to the eye of ignorant superstition, a more fatal disaster than even Ubbo's death and their own defeat."\* The Saxon chronicle gives the number of slain as 840; and it is believed in the neighbourhood that a second battle was fought at Bloody Corner, near Northam, (where a stone still remains to mark the spot,) by the remnant of the Danish army, and that they there suffered a second defeat. Hubba was buried near the water side, at a place which bears the name of Hubblestone to the present day.

A. D.  
878.

*Edred* appears next, "of whom I find no

900.

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\* S. Tanner's history of the Anglo-Saxons. vol. 2. p. 79.

† Reafan, *i. e.* the Raven. See a story attached to this badge in

A. D. other mention than that he died in the year 901, a month before the death of Alfred, and that he had been a faithful assistant to him in many battles."§

901. *Alpsius*, was Duke of Devon and Cornwall, in the reign of King Athelstane about 901, "who made Eadulphus, this Duke's brother, the first Bishop of Crediton.\* He resided at the castle of Exeter, as it was the custom in those days, for the Earls to dwell in the counties from whence they derived their honours, and where they had a considerable command."

*Wortiger, or Vortiger*, Duke of this province, and of the Gevisi,† a name anciently given to the West Saxons, and comprehending the circuit of that kingdom; "who by subtle means procured the murder of his sovereign Constantine,‡ and immediately after the fact, caused those engaged in it to be strangled that the deed might not be discovered."||

Prince's worthies of Devon, quarto edition, page 564.

§ Dugdale.

\* Eadulphus, is said by Mr. Hooker, to have founded the town of Launceston, and surrounded it by a wall. (*Carew's survey of Cornwall*, part 2. p. 116.)

† The name Gevisi is doubtless derived from Gewis, the great grandfather of Cerdic, founder of the West Saxon kingdom, about 519.

‡ He was King of Scotland in the reign of Athelstane, about 938.

|| Speed, Goodwin.

*Ordgar*, in the reign of Edgar, 960, followed Wortiger; the story of whose beautiful daughter Elfrida is related by every British historian. She married Ethelwolfe, Earl of the East Angles, and on his death, became the Queen of Edgar.

A. D.

960.

Ordgar, or Ordgarius, is celebrated for having founded the Abbey of Horton in Dorsetshire, and also the Abbey of Tavistock in Devonshire, 961. He died ten years after, "and was buried in his own Abbey, where he had a fair tomb, which was remaining a few years since. It bore this inscription, "Orgar, Com. Devon, mortem obiit, An. 971."\*

971.

He was a native of Devonshire, and his residence is supposed to have been at Harewood, on the Tamar, about six miles from Tavistock. He is represented, by some historians, as a son of Alpsius before mentioned.

*Ordulfe*, or *Edulf*, succeeded his father, who is said to have been of a giant-like stature, and wonderful strength; of whom it is related, that coming to Exeter with King Edward the Martyr, and finding the gates barred, he, with his hands and feet, burst them open. "He was buried in

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\* It has been observed that he was admonished by a vision to found a monastery for the peace and solace of his mind, being much distressed at the disorders which had occurred in his family, from the evil conduct of his daughter Elfrida, and that in consequence he fixed on the site of the present ruined abbey, which was commenced in a style of great magnificence by Ordgarius, and completed by his son.



- A. D. the abbey of Tavistock, with a tomb, in proportion  
971. suitable to the immensity of his bulk.”\*

Ordulfe is by many “supposed to have been the founder of this abbey, but it is generally believed he completed that which his father commenced.”†

989. “*Goda*, Earl of Devon, in the reign of Ethelred, commanded the inhabitants of the Shire, in a severe encounter with the Danes in which the latter were defeated, and put to flight; but not without great loss and lamentation for their Earl, who with another valiant warrior, named Stenusold, were there slain.”‡

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\* Dugdale's Baronage. “Carew, in his survey of Cornwall, mentions the circumstance of a leaden coffin having been dug up in the chancel of the parish church of St. Stephen's at Trematon, in Cornwall, where are the ruins of a castle formerly belonging to the Duke of Cornwall, in which were deposited the remains “of a verie bigge man, but when the hands went about to ascertain themselves, as well as their eyes, the body verified, that ‘*Omnis caro pulvis*.’” Some writing, said to be on the lead, “expressed the same to bee the burial of a Duke, whose line was married to the Prince.” He is rather inclined to fix it on Ordgarius, whom William of Malmesbury says, was buried in the monastery of Tavistock, but it is much more likely to be that of Cadoc, the son of Candorus, the last British Earl of Cornwall, whose only daughter and heir Agnes, married Reginald Fitz-Henry, natural son of Henry 1st, and consequently a Prince of the Royal blood.

Tavistock Abbey was razed to the ground by the Danes about 1011, but rebuilt, and at the dissolution of monasteries, besides the jurisdiction of a whole Hundred, its revenues amounted to £902. 5s. 7d. per annum. “The Abbey bore the founders arms, *vair*, or and *azure*, on a chief of the 2nd., 2 mullets, *gules*.” *Lelands antiquaria collectanea*, vol. 1.

† Dugdale's Baronage.

‡ Risdon.

A certain Norman named *Hugh* was created Earl of Devon and Cornwall by Queen Emma, who is said to have treacherously allowed Sweine, King of Denmark, to obtain Exeter and dismantle it.‡

A. D.

1003.

*Elphegus* followed Hugh, who was Earl of Devon† in the days of King Canute the Dane, who suspecting that the traitor Edric, Earl of Mercia, would betray him, as he had done King Ethelred and his son Edmund, put him to death.

Elphegus was also archbishop of Canterbury, "and for that he refused to charge his tenants with £3000 to pay for his ransom, the Danes most cruelly stoned him to death at Greenwich, 19th April 1013."\* He was buried in London, and in 1028, by the exertions of Simon, a monk of Durham, his body was removed to Canterbury.

"*Ailmere, or Ethelmere*, Earl of Devon and Cornwall, 1013, "who being a person of singular piety, founded first of all the abbey of Cerne in Dorsetshire, in the days of King Edgar; and had so great a veneration for the memory of Eadwald, brother of St. Edmund the martyr, who led a hermit's life in Dorsetshire, near to a certain spring called Silver-well, that with the help of Dunstan, (archbishop of Canterbury,) he translated

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§ S. Turner, v. 2. p. 314.

† He is called by Speed, "governor of Devonshire."

\* Speed, Risdon.

A. D. his relics to the old church of Cerne, then the  
1003. parish church."

"After this, in 1005, (in the time of King Ethelred,) he founded the abbey of Ernesham in Oxfordshire, and the priory of Bruton in Somersetshire (all for monks of the Benedictine order,) which he amply endowed."\*

1013. This Ailmere also, "when Sweine King of Denmark, in 1013, overran the greatest part of the land with his army, and forced King Ethelred to betake himself unto the city of Winchester for refuge, he, with all the great men of the west, fearing the tyranny of the Danes, submitted themselves unto him, and gave hostages for their peaceable obedience. About three years after this, when King Edmund Ironside fought so stoutly against King Canute, (son to the same Sweine) he joining with that traitrous Edric Streona, Earl of Mercia, and Earl Algar, adhered to Canute."

Ailmere left a son, called Athelward, who in the year 1018 was killed by King Canute, together with Edric Streona, Earl of Mercia."†

*Goodwin*,‡ commonly called Earl of Kent, was (according to Lambert,) Earl of Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Sussex, and Hampshire, in the time

\* Dugdale.

† Dugdale.

‡ The arms of Goodwin were gules, 2 bars between 6 leopards faces, or. Speed does not give them crusuly; and Mills, in his catalogue of

of Edward the Confessor; and by Speed considered Duke of the West Saxons. He was nobly descended, being a Duke by degree, the son of Wolnoth, grandson of Egelmar, surnamed Leofwine, and brother of Edric, Duke of Mercia, who married the daughter of Ethelred, King of England.

A. D

1003.

Goodwin's second wife was Guida, Gida, or Githa, the daughter of Duke Wolfe, and sister to Sweine the younger, King of Denmark, by Estrich his wife, who was sister to Canute the Great, King of England.

Githa was the mother of Harold the second, and in her possession was the manor of Tiverton, in Edward the Confessor's days. After the insurrection at Exeter, 1068, she made her escape with her two sons, and a very considerable treasure, to Flanders. By domesday survey we find that she held the hundred of Torrington, and the abbey of Hartland, which she nobly endowed, and many historians have supposed her to have been the founder.

1068.

Goodwin was succeeded by "*Odo*,† unto whom Edward the Confessor gave the earldoms of Somerset and Dorset."\* He was half brother of William the Conqueror's, and bishop of Bayeux, Earl Palatine of Kent, and Justiciary of England. He is

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honour, for Godwin, Earl of Kent, and Tosti his son, Earl of Northumberland, gules, 7 mascels, verry 3, 3, and 1. See pages 706, and 756.

† He bore gules a lion rampant argent, with a crosier staff, or.

\* Dugdale. .

- A. D. supposed to have had 180 fiefs† in Kent alone, and  
 1068. 255 in several other places. His other brother, Robert, was invested with the earldom of Cornwall, in which were 288 manors.\*

1080. Odo indulged a hope of being elected Pope on the death of Gregory, under which idea this proud prelate sent commissioners to Rome with directions to purchase a palace, which he adorned with costly furniture. William the Conqueror appears to have reposed great confidence in him; as, on his leaving the kingdom to quell a revolt in Normandy, he intrusted him with the power of governing England during his absence. On another occasion, in May 1080, he gave him the command of a considerable force, and sent him to Durham, to avenge the cruel death of their Bishop Walcher.‡ This confidence was returned by infidelity and treachery; on which he was cast into prison, and was released only a short time previous to William's death; for although he could not be arraigned as a prelate, as an earl he was subject to the laws

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† A term of high antiquity, having "its origin from the military policy of the northern, or Celtic nations, (see page 11, part 1.) "Feoda, feuds, feifs, or fees, were small allotments, or parcels of land, dealt out by the superior, to their inferior officers, as rewards of merit, for which they were to do service faithfully." *Blackstone*, (see also page 10 part 1.)

\* He was Earl of Moreton, and resided, as well as his son and successor William, also Earl of Moreton, at Trematon Castle in Cornwall. He is said to have made considerable additions to the Castle at Launceston.

‡ Mills catalogue of honour, page 714. He was also Earl of Northumberland.

and censure of the King.†

A. D.

1080.

We find Odo, shortly after his release from prison, and during the early part of the reign of his nephew, William 2nd, extremely jealous of the fame bestowed on Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, against whom he had conceived great animosity. This led to much disorder in Kent,\* which ended in his escape to Normandy, where his nephew Robert committed to him the administration of his affairs.‡

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#### SHERIFFS OF DEVON.

Arms of Baldwin de  
Brionis, Checquy,  
Or and Azure ; over  
all 2 bars Argent.

} William the Conqueror invested  
Baldwin de Brionis, or de Molis,  
alias de Sap, knight, with the con-  
troul of many manors, and among them was that

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† Speed.

\* It is evident Odo was deprived of all his power and possessions in the west, and whatever he retained after his release from prison, was chiefly in Kent.

‡ There was another Odo, who was made bishop of Sherborne by Athelstone, and archbishop of Canterbury by King Edward. He was a firm and sincere champion for the monks, and the author of the ten following Ecclesiastical laws, about 943. The 1st. threatens all those who injure Church property with excommunication ; 2nd. exhorts princes and other great men to be obedient to the bishops ; 3rd. admonishes bishops to discharge their duties without mercenary views in respect to persons ; 4th, 5th, and 6th. give advice to clergy and monks ; 7th. prohibits unlawful marriages ; 8th. recommends unity and charity among christians ; the 9th. presses fasting on wednesday's, friday's, and the four ember weeks ; and the 10th. enjoins the punctual payment of Tithes. Rapin, vol. 1. p. 426.

A. D. of Tiverton. He made him hereditary Viscount of  
 1080. Devon, and Baron of Oakhampton,† where he built  
 a castle, the ruins of which at present remain.  
 He had the custody of the whole County of Devon,  
 paying an annual consideration to the King, which  
 has caused him in Domesday to be styled Sheriff  
 of Devon, a title that continued to his successors  
 until the 16th of Henry 3rd. Exeter castle, where  
 he resided, was much enlarged by him in 1068,  
 at the instance of the King, and made a place of  
 great strength and importance.\*

He was one of the principal persons of the  
 laity, who won much fame at the conquest of  
 England, tracing his descent from Richard, first  
 Duke of Normandy, (the grandfather of the con-  
 queror,) whose natural son Geoffery bore the title  
 of Earl of Ewe. He had a son, Gilbert Crispin,  
 Earl of Brienne, who was the father of Baldwin.  
 His name, 'Brionis,' was derived from his father's  
 title of Brienne, a place in Normandy; and that  
 of 'de Molis'† from the castle of Mola, situated

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‡ He held the barony of Oakhampton by the service of three knights,  
 and 92 knights fees. The first and most esteemed species of tenure, was  
 knights service who held a determinate quantity of land, called knights  
 fee, and estimated in the 3rd year of Edward 1., at 12 plough land, and its  
 value is stated at £20 per annum. This sum increased with the advance  
 in the value of money. For each knights fee the possessor was subject to  
 be called on to serve for forty days in every year, as a return, or rent for  
 the land he claimed to hold.

\* Baldwin had an only brother Richard, who took his surname  
 from Reviere (de Redverius alias Riparius,) and of whom more hereafter.

† Dugdale styles him, 'Mola and Sappo.'

in the duchy, wherein he was born. He was one of the Conqueror's generals at the battle of Hastings, whose niece Albreda, he married,\* and being held in high estimation by William 1, he conferred on him 159 lordships in Devon, and 19 houses in Exeter.

A. D.

1080.

By his wife Albreda, he had issue three sons ; viz. Richard his successor, Henry, (or Robert,) and William surnamed of Vernona, a town in Normandy, where he was born ; and three daughters, of whom Adelia alone survived,† who was married to a Kentish knight, but died without issue.

*Richard de Brionis*, the elder son of Baldwin, succeeded to the titles and honours held by his father. He was also styled Sheriff of Devon. "In 1133, he began to erect an abbey on his estate at Brightley, in the parish of Chittlehampton, which being completed in 1136, he endowed it with lands, dedicating it to the Virgin Mary, and placed therein 12 monks, and their abbot Richard, who had been sent him from the Cistercian abbey of Waverley, in Surrey, in consequence of his application to Gilbert, abbot of that house. He survived the completion of his monastery only one year, and dying 25th

1133.

1136.

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\* "He held the manor of Porlock in Somerset, in 1086, as appears by the Domesday survey, which place derives its name from the Anglo-Saxon 'Port,' a harbour, and Loc, similar to the latin 'claudere to shut up,' which is derived from the gothic lukan, and Anglo-Saxon lukan, to shut up." (*Savage's history of the hundred of Carhampton.*)

† Dugdale's baronage.



- A. D. June 1137, was there buried; leaving his inheritance, for want of male issue, to his sister Adelia,† called Countess of Devon."|| She died 24th August, 1147, leaving issue by her husband, (whose name does not appear,) an only daughter,

*Alice*, who inherited all her mother's rights, and was wife of Richard Avenell. The offspring of this marriage was,

- Matilda*. This great heiress married first, Robert de Abrincis, or Auranchis, Lord of Folkstone, in Kent,\* by whom she had three daughters, viz, Hawisia, and two others who became nuns; secondly she married Robert Fitzroy, a natural son of Henry 1st., and brother of Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, who died 31st May, 1173, leaving issue a daughter called Matilda. This powerful Viscountess died 21st September, 1173.

*Hawisia*, the elder daughter succeeded to her mother's inheritance. She married Reginald de Courtenay, grandson of Louis Le Gros, King of France, then a widower, who had been appointed by King Henry 2nd. guardian to herself, and her half sister. His son William Courtenay, (by a former wife,) married Matilda before mentioned.

† This genealogy is chiefly following the copy in the "Chartulary of St. John's Hospital, penes Majorem et Communitatem Civitatis Exoniæ;" but Pole, who was guided by the ledger book of Oakhampton, varies in some few particulars. See Pole's Devon, page 17.

|| Grose's Antiquities.

\* He bore Or, 5 chevronells gules.

Reginald de Courtenay died 27th September, 1213; and Hawisia followed him to the grave 31st August, 1219. A. D. 1219.

*Robert de Courtenay*, son of Reginald and Hawisia, was dispossessed, by Henry 3rd in the 16th year of his reign, of the Sherifalty of Devon and of the custody of Exeter castle, which he took into his own hands with many other castles in England. By his wife Mary, the younger daughter of William de Redvers, Earl of Devon, he had a son John de Courtenay, to whom we shall again revert in tracing the descent of this noble house.

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#### EARLS OF DEVON.

Arms of Redvers, } *Richard Fitz-Gilbert*, brother of Bald-  
gules, a griffin } win de Brionis,† (before mentioned,) 1100.  
Sergreant, az. }

“being highly beloved by King Henry 1st., was made one of his chief councillors, in the first year of his reign, and had by his gift not only Tiverton, with the honor of Plympton, but was by him made first Earl of Devon since the conquest; having the *Tertium Denarium* of the issues of that county, which amounted to 10 marks,\* (the whole revenue thereof being then 30 marks,) assigned to him; and not long after he obtained from the same King, the Isle of Wight; whereupon he was

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† Who also assumed the title of de Redvers now Rivers, as before mentioned. He was ancestor of the Earls of Clare.

\* A mark of silver, at that period, was 6s. 1d. in weight. It is now 13s. 4d.

- A. D. 1100. styled Earl of Devon, and Lord of the Isle."† He was High Sheriff for the County. Henry 1st. gave him also the church of Christ-church, in the County of Southampton; and being a person of great piety, he bestowed extensive benefactions on several religious establishments, from his possessions in Southampton and Isle of Wight, besides giving the manor of Exmouth, in Devon, with the churches, chapels, and tithes thereunto belonging, to the abbey of Montebourg in Normandy.
1106. This Richard is supposed to be the founder of Tiverton Castle about 1106, and it afterwards became his principal residence. He attached to it "two parks for pleasure," as expressed by Wescote, named Ashley park, and Castle barton.‡
1107. He died in 1107, and was buried at Montebourg abbey in Normandy,\* leaving by his marriage with

† Dugdale's Baronage.

‡ Ashley Park contains 620A. 2a. 20p., and is bounded on the north and north west by lands in Priors portion, on the west by South wood, and Custom wood; and on the south and east, principally by the river Exe and turnpike road leading from Tiverton to Exeter.

Castle Barton, is bounded on the east by Chettiscombe manor; on the south by part of the said manor, and a road leading from Towns-end, to higher and lower Dairy Farm; on the north by lands in the possession of Lord Egremont, and B. B. Dickinson, esquire, of Knightsays; and on the west by parts of higher and lower Prescott, and the river Exe. More than a century since, the boundary park line comprehended a part of the Ham, the boundary running from east to west, in a line with St. Peter's Church; since which period the course of the Exe has been considerably changed.

\* See Ordericus Vital. lib. 11.

Adeliza,† his son and successor,

A. D.

*Baldwyn de Redvers*, who styled himself Earl of Devon in divers of his charters. He was also Lord of Plympton and the Isle of Wight, and esteemed one of the richest and bravest men of his time. Having rebelled, with other nobles, against King Stephen, he fortified the castle of Exeter, and the Isle of Wight, "for the better defending of which castle," says Dugdale, "he spent much treasure in military works, and in certain engines of war, whereupon the King raised an army of English and Flemings, wherewith he marched into Devonshire; and after a short siege, having taken that castle, seized upon the Isle of Wight, with all his other possessions, and expelled him with his wife and children, out of England." He was not long after, however, fully restored to his honours and possessions.†

1107.

He was the founder of three monasteries; that of Christchurch, in Hants, (called also the priory of Twineham,) *Querrarra*,\* in the Isle of Wight, (for Cistercian monks,) in 1122, and *Lira* in Normandy. He gave also to the monks of

1122.

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† I should here observe, that there is a discrepancy in the accounts extracted from two apparently authentic documents; viz, the ledger book of Oakhampton, and a pedigree found in the abbey of Ford, which latter Pole denounces as altogether false. This difference may have occurred from comparing Richard de Brionia, son of Baldwin, with Richard de Redvers, the favorite of Henry 1st.

† See part 1st. page 14.

\* Consecrated to the Virgin Mary. *Camden*.

- A. D. St. Peter of Cluni, and St. Martin de Campis, in the suburbs of Paris, his priory of St. James's near Exeter, which he founded in 1146, with the tithes thereto belonging, having endowed it also with "totam Ecclesiam de Twivertona cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, per manum prædicti domini Roberti Exon. Episcopo donavi et præsentī scripto confirmavi,"\* to pray for the souls of Adeliza his

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\* Fac simile of the seal appended to the deed of gift, copied from Dugdale's Mon.



wife, Richard his father, and Adelia his mother ; which chapel of St. James's thenceforth became a cell to that foreign monastery. He died at Quar, 2nd June, 1155, and was there buried with Adeliza his wife, leaving issue three sons, Richard his heir and successor, Henry, and William surnamed de Vernon, from the place of his birth.

A. D.

1155.

Gules, a griffin, sergeant, azure, for Redvers, impaled with gules, 2 lions, (or leopards,) pass-guard. or; a baton sinister, azure, for Reginald Earl of Cornwall.

*Richard*, his eldest son succeeded to all his large possessions as third Earl of Devon. He was a good soldier, and filled the office of

Sheriff of Devon, in the 2nd year of Henry 2.

1156.

He gave lands to the abbey of Quarrara, to pray for the souls of his father and mother, and confirmed by charter, dated 1157, the benefactions his father had made. He married Avis or Hawis, † daughter of Reginald, the base son of Henry 1st, Earl of Cornwall, by whom he had issue Baldwin and Richard, who successively inherited the family honours: also a daughter Avis, who married William de Romara, first Earl of Lincoln; and dying the 8. H. 2, at the city of Maunt in France, was buried at Twineham, a monastery which his father had founded and largely endowed.

1157.

1162.

*Baldwin*, the 2nd, fourth Earl of Devon, succeeded to all the possessions and titles held by his father Richard, and married Alice, daughter of Ralph, or Radulph, de Dols, in Berry, but died

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† Dugdale calls her Dyonisia.

- A. D. without issue. After the death of Baldwin, "by  
 1162. command of Richard 1, Alice married one Andrew  
 de Chevenem, esquire, a man that well deserved  
 of the said King, in his wars in Palestine."\*

*Richard* succeeded his brother as Earl of Devon, but he dying also without issue,† this noble inheritance descended to,

Gules, a griffin sergreant } *William*, surnamed *de Vernon*,  
 azure, for Redvers, impaled } Earl of Devon, an uncle to Bald-  
 with gules, a cinquefoil, } win and Richard. He was called  
 pierced, ermine, for Earl } de Verona, says St. John's char-  
 of Millent and Worcester.

1194. tulary, "quia Vernonæ scolariis fuerat." At the  
 second coronation of R. 1st. (after his return from  
 Palestine,) he was one of four Earls who carried a  
 silken canopy, the 5th. of that King's reign, and  
 was then styled Earl of the Isle of Wight. He  
 married Mabell, or Margerie, daughter of Robert  
 Earl of Mellent and Worcester, and of Matilda  
 his wife, one of the daughters of Reginald, Earl  
 of Cornwall, by whom he had Baldwyn, who  
 died in his fathers life-time, leaving issue, Jane,  
 wife of Lord William Briwer, or Brigwere,  
 the younger, and Mary, wife of Robert Lord  
 Courtenay, Baron of Oakhampton. He died 11th  
 September, 1207.

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\* Mills catalogue of honour.

† He was buried at Montebourg abbey in Normandy.

Or, a lion rampant, azure,  
for Rivers, impaled with  
gules, a lion pass. gard. ar,  
crowned or, for Gwarin  
Fitzgerald de Harewood.

*Baldwin the 3rd*, son of William,  
who died before his father, mar-  
ried Margaret, daughter and coheir  
of Gwarin Fitzgerald, de Harewood, by whom he  
had issue Baldwin. Margaret was married secondly,  
to the King's great favorite, Falco de Brent, or  
Breant, a man celebrated for his success and cru-  
elty, as the General employed by Henry 3rd  
against the insurgent barons.†

A. D.

1214.

Or, a lion rampant, azure,  
for Rivers, impaled with  
or, 3 chevrons, gules, for  
Gilbert de Clare, Earl of  
Gloucester.

*Baldwin the 4th*, son of Baldwin  
and Margaret, daughter of Gwarin  
Fitzgerald, succeeded to his grand-  
father William's inheritance, in

1216, as seventh Earl of Devon. During a great  
part of his life, he was a ward of his step-father,  
Falco de Brent, before mentioned, of whom "Matthew  
of Paris affirms that Margaret was, by King John  
the tyrant, (as he calls him, who stuck at no  
wicked act,) constrained to marry that impious,  
ignoble, and base conditioned man against her  
will; of which marriage he says, one wrote the  
following lines at that time;

1216.

Lex connectit eos, amor et concordia Lecti;  
Sed lex qualis? Amor qualis? Concordia qualis?  
Lex exlex; Amor exosus, concordia discors."\*

To Falk de Brent succeeded *Gilbert de Clare*,

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† She was buried in the Church of Grey Friars, London, where her  
tomb still remains.

See the story of Falco de Brent, in Dugdale's baronage; also  
Cleveland's history of the Courtenay's, part 3, page 143.

\* Dugdale.



- A. D. 1216. Earl of Gloucester, and other guardians; but when his minority was expired, he married Amicia,† daughter of the said Gilbert de Clare, by whom he had issue Baldwin, and Isabella who married William de Fortibus, Earl of Albermarle.‡ A royal charter was granted the 42nd of Henry 3rd. 1258, to the then Lord of the Manor, Baldwin de Insula, otherwise De Lisle, for the privilege of holding a market and a fair at his manor of Tiverton in Devonshire.§

1245. This nobleman also “changed the griffin clenching a little beast, “says Camden,” which his ancestors used in their seal,\* into a scutcheon Or, lion rampant, azure.” Mills in his catalogue of honour, gives the lion’s tail forked, which was considered an honorable distinction. This Earl, on the morrow after St. Valentine’s day 1245, died in the flower of his youth, leaving his two children to the care of Amicia Rivers, his widow, who claimed the manor and lordship of Tiverton as part of her dower; and being summoned many years after by a *quo warranto*, to prove her title to these possessions, she certified her claim to view of

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† She bore or, 3 chevronells gules.

“This Baldwyn granted his borough of Plympton to his burgesses there to hold, to them and their heirs, of him and his heirs for ever, as freely as the citizens of Exeter held their city of the King.” Madox, *Firma Burgi*. p. 24.

‡ Her arms were gules, a cross patonce verrey. See copy of her seal, page 29.

\* Vide page 12. part 2. of this history.

§ *Calendarium rotulorum chartarium*. Chartæ 42d. II. 3.

frankpledge, assize of bread and beer, a gallows,§ (then on Whitedown,) pillory, &c., with a market on Mondays,\* and three fairs yearly, on July 7th, September 1st, and November 30th, in her manor of Tiverton. The jury returned these privileges to be worth 60 marks per annum, the whole to be held in dower, and descend after her death, to Isabella her daughter, Countess of Albermarle, as heiress to her son, who died without issue during his mother's life time.†

A. D.

1245.

Of *Amicia* I have only further to remark, that 53rd. Henry 3rd. she was made governess of Hadley castle in Hertfordshire. We are informed by Dugdale that Isabella had full possession of her extensive inheritance during her mother's life, subject to her dowry, which consisted of the manors of Tiverton, Exminster, and Topsham, in Devonshire, and Edbrington in Dorset, and this Isabella "gave to the said *Amicia* the inheritance of the manors of Bockland, Bickley, Woolhamp-ton, and Coliton, with the hundreds, advowsons of Churches, knight's fees, and whatsoever else to them belonged."‡ *Amicia* died 1282, soon after

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§ See page 18. book 1.

\* This market was changed to Tuesday, in consequence of a belief, that the many and destructive fires which had desolated Tiverton, was intended by Providence as a just judgment for occupying so much of Sunday in preparation for the following day. See page 78. book 1.

† An old mss. is preserved in the chapter house near Westminster abbey, of the account here given.

‡ Dugdale.

- A. D. she had founded the abbey of Buckland, in Devon-  
1262. shire, (in 1278,) "for the health of the souls of  
King Henry 3rd, and Queen Eleanor; Gilbert  
de Clare, some time Earl of Gloucester, her father;  
Isabel her mother; and Baldwin Earl of Devon,  
her late husband; as also of Isabel, Countess of  
Devon and Albermarle, and Margaret a nun of  
Lacock, her two daughters then living."\*

*Baldwin the 5th*, son of Baldwin and Amicia, succeeded to the titles and estates held by his father, and married Hawis, a daughter of Peter de Savoy,† and kinswoman of Queen Eleanor, by whom he had issue John, who died in France during his youth. Baldwin, 44. H. 3., received the honor of knighthood at the marriage of John Duke of Bretayne, with Beatrix the King's daughter; and about two years after, he died (in France) by poison, (together with Richard, Earl of Gloucester, and others,) at the table of Peter de Savoy, and was buried at Brommore abbey.

With Baldwin, ended the male succession of the de Redvers family, Earls of Devon, and this great and noble inheritance, descended to Isabella sister of the last Earl, wife of William de Fortibus, Earl of Albermarle; and the issue male failing on her husband's side also, she became the representative of both families. The 52. H. 3. she had

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\* Dugdale.

† Earl of Richmond, and an uncle of Eleanor, the Queen of Henry the 3rd.

livery of the castle of Carisbrooke,† and Isle of Wight, and she confirmed all the donations made by her noble ancestors, (the Earls of Devon,) to the abbey of Quarrara in that Isle, and by virtue of her extensive inheritance, she styled herself ‘Isabella de Fortibus, Comitissa de Albermale et Devonia, ac Domina Insulæ.’ She was, in all

A. D.

1268.

Seal of Isabella de Fortibus.

*S. Isabella de Fortibus Com.  
Albermarlie & Devon & Dna Insulæ,*



*Anno 5<sup>th</sup> Edw. I.*

probability, the last who laid claim to *Domina Insulæ*, as it is said on her death, by fraudulent means, Carisbrooke castle passed into the hands of Edward 1st.† Her hereditary possession of

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† Camden describes Carisbrooke as “eminent in the Saxon times, and so called by a strange mangling of the name for Whitgaresburg, from one Whitgar a Saxon, (and now by contraction Caeresbrook,”) then sovereign of the Isle of Wight, A. D. 530, who is said only to have *rebuilt* the castle, leaving an impression that Carisbrooke is a place of great antiquity.

† See Dugdale, v. 2. p. 64, who gives a long account of this transaction. Sir W. Pole however p. 7. discredits this tale, and states that “Isabella sold her possessions in the Isle of Wight to Edward 1st., for 6000 marks, (paid by the hands of Sir Gilbert Knoville, knight, William Stanes, and Jeffery Hecham, the King’s receivers,) together with Christchurch, and Lambeth near London, the 21st of the said King’s reign.”

- A. D. 1277. the manors of Topsham and Exminster, giving her the command of each side of the river Exe, she erected a wear across the river for the benefit of her mills at Topsham, which is called "Countess Wear," to the present day. The exercise of this right led to "an inquisition being taken at Exeter, the day of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, before Malcoline Harleigh, general escheator of the King on this side Trent, before whom the jurors of the hundred of Wonneford, (*inter alia*) upon their oaths do say, that Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Devon, hath made a great purpresture, or nuisance in the river of Exe, by erecting of a certain weare in the same; to the great damage of the city, and the whole county adjoining."\*

1290. Another inquisition was taken before the said escheator to the effect that "Isabella, Countess of Devon, about six years last past, had raised a weare overthwart the river Exe, and which is of such a height that the fishing and taking of salmon and other fish there, is destroyed on that side of the said weare, to the great damage and annoyance of the said city and county."† The wear however was not removed, but the probability of some alteration having been made, to admit a passage in the centre, will be shewn hereafter.

This Isabella built within the site of Rougemont castle, at Exeter, a chapel, whereunto she gave

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\* Isaac's history of Exeter, page 27.

† id.

certain lands, called the Prebends of Hayes, and Catton, for certain weekly services, there to be duly performed.†

A. D.  
1290.

Tradition has also ascribed to this benevolent lady, that extensive benefaction to the inhabitants of Tiverton, for ever, of the "Town Lake," from Norwood Common to its termination, as well as the addition of Elmore\* Park, for the benefit of the poor of Tiverton, but no evidence exists to justify the conclusion. There is however, great reason to believe that the donation was made by

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† See Grose's antiquities.

\* A corruption of Eel-more. Ely is said to have derived its name from rents having been formerly paid in eels, the Lords of the Manors in that Isle being annually entitled to more than 100,000 of them; and Elmore, on the Severn, obtained its name from the immense number of eels which were taken there. *Yarrel*, p. 294. Also the Farleighs, near Maidstone in Kent, were given by Eldiva, the mother of Harold, in 941, to the monks of Christchurch Canterbury, to whom they produced an annual rent of 1200 eels. See *Lambarde and Philipott*.

Some notion may be formed of the quantity of young Eels about three inches long, that pass up the Thames in the spring, and in other rivers the beginning of summer, from the circumstance that it was calculated by two observers of the progress of the young eels at Kingston in 1832, that 16 to 1800 passed a given point in the space of one minute of time. This is called Eel-fare on the banks of the Thames, the Saxon word signifying to go, to pass, to travel; a pedestrian on the road is called a way-faring-man; the price of travelling by a conveyance, 'the fare.' We have also 'thorough-fare'; and I have little doubt that the term Elver in common use on the banks of the Severn, about Barnstaple, and other parts of Devonshire, for a young Eel, is a modification, or corruption of Eel-fare. There is no doubt that Eels occasionally quit the water, and travel through grass meadows when wet with dew, either in pursuit of frogs, or to change their situation. *Yarrel*, 292.

A. D      Amicia her mother, which will be seen elsewhere.†

1290.

By Isabella's marriage with William de Fortibus Earl of Albermarle, (who died in the year 1260,) she had issue three sons, John, Thomas, and William; and two daughters, Avice, and Aveline, which Avice died young, and was buried in the abbey of St. Meaur. The three sons died in early life without issue, and *Eveline*,|| her only surviving child, who has been called Baroness of Skipton, married Edmund, second son of Henry 3rd,\* afterwards Earl of Lancaster 5th April 1269, which marriage was attended by the King and Queen, and most of the nobility of England. She died without issue in 1274, and was buried in the priory, Brommore in Wiltshire, which was founded by Baldwyn de Redvers, first Earl of Devon of that name, her ancestor, on which this title and inheritance passed into the family of Courtenay.‡

† See account of charities, part 3. page 3. note.

|| Her arms were a cross patonce very; and those of Edmund Earl of Lancaster, 3 lions pass. gard. or; a label of 3 points az., each charged with 3 fleur de lis, or.

\* Commonly called Crouchback, from his wearing the sign of a cross, known anciently by the name of Crutch, on his back, the symbol of those who vowed voyages to the Holy land. A crutch, used by the lame, has a similar origin.

‡ The family of Redvers had possessed almost absolute power in the hundred and manor of Tiverton, for a period of more than two Centuries; and being patrons of the Church, they exercised, in the government of that part of their property, almost unlimited authority. The inhabitants of the manor and lordship had been their vassals, and wholly subject to, and dependent on their Lord, who was answerable to the state for their good conduct.

In following this noble line, it will be desirable to retrace our steps to the earliest resident in England of this branch of an illustrious family, who had shone forth in dazzling brightness from among a long line of Emperors and Kings.†

A. D.

1293.

Dugdale, Pole, Camden, and other eminent authors, are so much at variance respecting the immediate descent of this noble House, beyond its high antiquity and splendour, before the period of which we are now speaking, that it becomes us only to state what we believe is undisputed, that Reginald de Courtenay, after giving his daughter in marriage to the seventh son of King Louis Le Gros, abandoned his possessions in France, and obtained from the English monarch, a second wife, and a new inheritance, by marrying Hawisia, daughter of Robert de Abrionis, or Averinchis, by whom he had no issue. By Reginald's first marriage with the sister of Guy de Danjore, in France, he had a son, William,‡ who married Matilda, daughter and heir of Robert, Lord of Aincoort, the half sister of his father's wife, Hawisia, by whom, he had issue Robert de Courtenay, who succeeded in his mother's right, to the barony of Oakhamp-

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† See Gibbons decline and fall of the Roman Empire, vol. 11. page 294.

‡ Besides the said William, and a daughter, married to the son of the King of France, as mentioned above, he had also Gervais, from whom descended the Tracys, Barons of Barnstaple, (see Dugdale and Pole,) and Evelina, the wife of Gilbert Lord Basset.



A. D. 1293. ton.\* He married Mary, the younger daughter of William de Redvers, (surnamed de Vernon,) Earl of Devon,† and had issue John. His sister-in-law Jane, wife of William, Lord Brewer having died without issue, an immense accession of property devolved to the Courtenay family. Robert died 26th July 1242.

John de Courtenay knight, and Baron of Oakhampton, married Isabella, daughter of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, by whom he left a son and heir called Hugh. On John de Courtenay's death, which took place 3rd May, 1273, his widow married Oliver de Dinham. He died in 1299, and his widow followed him to the grave 11th of August following, "*et defuncta apud Fratres predicatorum Exoniæ est humata.*"

Hugh married Alianora, daughter of Hugh Despenser, (father of Hugh, Earl of Winchester,) and begat two sons, Hugh and Philip: also four daughters, Isabella de St. John, Avelina Giffard, Egelina de Schales, and Margaret de Meoles. This Hugh died at Colecombe, in the parish of Colyton, (which was built by him,) 27th February, 1291: his widow on returning from Canterbury, was taken ill, and died at London 26th September, 1328.

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\* See page 11.

† See page 13.

1st. and 4th. or, 3 torteauxes, gules, a label of 3 points, azure, for Courtenay; quartered with 2nd. and 3rd, a lion rampant, azure, for Redvers; impaled with argent, on a chief, gules, 2 mullets or, for Lord St. John of Basinge.

*Hugh de Courtenay*, on the death of Isabella de Fortibus,† succeeded to all the inheritance of the Earls of Devon, (except the Isle of

A. D.

1274.

Wight, which reverted to the Crown,) being great grandson of Robert de Courtenay, and Mary de Redvers, his wife, daughter of William de Redvers, sixth Earl of Devon of that name. He was one of the trustees in "a grant made to the mayor and citizens of Exeter, by the Bishop, Dean, and chapter, for the inclosing St. Peter's churchyard, erecting gates, and not hindering the execution of justice there;" which grant bears date 1286.\*

1286.

In 1297, Hugh was so much in favour with the King, that, notwithstanding he made not proof of his age, he was allowed to do homage, and had livery of the manor of Evrigbrone, Ebrighton in Dorsetshire, and Plympton, Exminster, Twyverton and Topsham, in Devon, which descended to

1297.

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† At Stockwell near London, 4th November, A. D. 1293.

"In Powderham Church," says Dunsford "is an old stone image of this Countess Isabella, lying in a niche of the north wall, with the image of a dog having bells about its neck, at her feet, and another at her head." p. 277. This tradition is without foundation, as Isabella was buried at Brommore Priory, Wilts, in the Church of Canon's regular, as before stated. The figure which is recumbent, has been recently removed to a place under the window in the south aisle.

\* Isaac's memorials of Exeter, who gives this grant at length, as well as that made by the Bishop, Dean, and chapter to the mayor and citizens. page 22. 23.

A. D. him as before stated. He lived on bad terms  
 1297. with Walter Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter, which  
 was probably generated by a dispute on the  
 Bishop's first coming to the Diocese, respecting  
 certain ceremonies customarily performed by the  
 Earls of Devon, by virtue of which they held  
 of the Bishops of Exeter, their manor of Slapton,  
 which led in the end to an agreement, consisting  
 of nine articles, and signed at Newton Plympton,  
 1308. A. D. 1308. In this grant he is styled Hugh  
 Courtenay, esquire, son and heir of Sir Hugh  
 Courtenay, knight.

1309. A controversy arose in 1309, between this  
 Hugh, and the mayor and commonalty of Exeter,  
 respecting the claim made by each party to the  
 exclusive right of the market produce. The dif-  
 1311. ference thus created was increased in 1311, by  
 this Earl's extending the wear at Countess-wear,  
 erected originally by Margaret de Fortibus, as  
 before mentioned, and building a quay at Topsham,§  
 for the purpose of loading and unloading vessels

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\* Besides Hugh 1st. Courtenay, Earl of Devon, he had Sir Philip Courtenay of Moreton, near Dartmoor, knight, slain in the battle of Strivelyn, in Scotland; Sir Thomas Courtenay, knight, who was buried in the Augustine-Friars in London; Isabel, married to John, Lord St. John, knight, of Basinge; Aveline, wife of John Lord Gifford, Margaret, wife of John, Lord Mules, and Egeline, wife of Robert, Lord Scales, of New-celles. *Pole.*

§ It appears probable that Isabella de Fortibus (see page 16,) removed a portion of this wear, on the inquisition being taken out against her in 1290, leaving an opening for the passage of vessels, which the Earl

there, which occasioned injury to the trade of Exeter; whereupon sundry bills of complaint were exhibited against him to the King, who appointed commissioners to enquire into the merits of the case, which was determined in favour of the citizens; but might, at that period, so much overcame right, that no redress could be gained.†

A. D.

In 1327, he received the honour of knighthood, according to the solemn custom of that age, and had his robes allowed him, and all other accoutrements for the ceremony of bathing as a banneret. 8. Ed. 3., he represented to the King, that he was by right of inheritance entitled to a certain annuity of £18. 6s. 8d. for the *Tertium Denarium*‡ of the County of Devon, with divers lands, from Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Albermarle, by virtue of the original grant of Henry 1. to his ancestor, Richard de Redvers, in 1100, which was paid by the Sheriff, and charged in exchequer accounts, until Walter Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer to Edward 2nd., refused to admit his claim; alleging that the annuity was granted by the King's progenitors, to the ancestors of Isabella, under the name and title of earls; and

1327.

1335.

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of Devon filled up with large timber and stones, so as effectually to prevent any water communication with Exeter, and obliging the inhabitants to have their goods brought three or four miles by land.

† Isaac's history of Exeter.

‡ A Denarius was the first Roman silver coin, and ten times the value of the Roman As, which consisted of twelve uncia, or ounces.

- A. D. Hugh not bearing that distinction, he could not  
 1335. be entitled to receive it: and on a like pretence  
 the then Sheriff of Devon,\* declined paying it any  
 longer. The King (Ed. 3.) required that search  
 should be made by the proper Officers, into the  
 records and memorials, and finding the statement  
 1336. of Hugh de Courtenay to be correct, he did, (by  
 his letters patent bearing date at Newcastle upon  
 Tyne, 22nd February, 9. Ed. 3.) declare it to be  
 his Royal pleasure, that Hugh de Courtenay the  
 elder, Earl of Devon, should thenceforth assume  
 the title of Earl as his ancestors had done, and  
 commanded the Sheriff forthwith to call him Earl  
 of Devon, directing, at the same time, the Barons  
 of his exchequer to cause the sum of £18. 6s. 8d.  
 to be annually paid to him 'nomine Comitis.'† On  
 1339. the 3rd Edward 3rd, "when the King averred his  
 right to the crown of France, by the evidence  
 of arms, the French for a counter-plea, made an  
 unlawful entry into Devon and Cornwall; but  
 Hugh Earl of Devon, removed it with 'posse comi-  
 tatus' and re-committed them to the wooden prison  
 that brought them thither."§

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\* William de Alba Marla.

† These documents are still extant in the Exchequer, and the substance has been translated and published in "Mills's catalogue of Honour." page 77.

§ Carew's survey of Cornwall, page 97. Stowe calls them "certaine Pirates of Normandy and Geneva. They did much injury on the coast of Devon and Cornwall, and at last entering Plymouth Haven, they burnt certain great ships, and most of the Town. They were however met by

The monks of Ford abbey, describe this Earl as endowed with great knowledge, and armed with extensive power, but consider he acted most injuriously towards their abbey, in many respects.

A. D.

1339.

He was engaged in five expeditions to Scotland and one in Wales in Edward 1. time. He was summoned to all the parliaments of Edward 1st. and 2nd., and in the 8th. of that reign he accompanied the King in an expedition to Scotland. In the first eight years of Edward 3rd, he was fifteen times summoned to parliament as a Baron, and to every succeeding parliament as Hugh Earl of Devon, being placed the 4th Earl in order, until the 14 Edward 3. At the time of his death he was possessed of 15 manors, and 4 hundreds in the County of Devon, and 6 manors in different Countries, besides many others mentioned by Sir William Dugdale.†

Hugh married Agnes sister of John St. John, Lord St. John of Basinge, and had issue four sons and three daughters; viz. John, who betook himself to a monastic life and became afterwards abbot of Tavistock;\* Hugh his successor; Robert

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Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, a knight of 80 years old, who slew and drowned about 500." page 235.

† Mr. Westcote says the arms of the Courtenay family, in his time, (1630) were in many different parts of St. Peter's Church, and among them the armorial bearings of this Earl. *Cleveland*, p. 151.

\* The following is copied from Rev. G. Oliver's "Historic collections,

A. D. 1339. who inherited the manor of Moreton on the death of his uncle Sir Philip Courtenay,† and died young; and Thomas, who on the death of his father succeeded to the manor of Wootton.† The three daughters of Hugh were Eleanora, married to John de Gray of Codner, but did not live long; Elizabeth, wife to Bartholomew de L'isle; and Egeline, married to Robert Lord Scales.

1340. The Earl died at Tiverton castle, 23rd December, 14th. Edward 3rd., surviving his Countess only six months, and was buried by her side at Cowick near Exeter.

At his funeral on the 5th of February following, Bishop Grandisson performed the service in the conventual church, and preached from the text,

relating to the Monasteries of Devon."

"The 23rd abbot of Tavistock, and substituted for Robert Bonus, A. D. 1334, was John de Courtenay. This abbot had very little the spirit of a religious man. He was passionately fond of field-sports, was very conceited and foppish in his dress, and a most incurable spendthrift. During his government, discipline seems to have been banished from the convent. Frequently but two of the community were present at the regular meals in the refectory, whilst the rest were feasting sumptuously in their private chambers. From the neglect of repairs, the monastery was falling into a dilapidated state and moreover was overcharged with debts. 'Monasterium quod solebat abundare divitiis et honore, erat et est oneribus debitorum usque ad mccc. libras sterlingorum et aliorum multiplicium onerum sarcina pregravatum.' *Vide 1st. of Bishop Grandison's, Reg. fo. 134.*"

† See page 19. note 3.

† He was commonly called Sir Thomas Courtenay, of South-Pole, and married Muriel, daughter and heir of Sir John de Mules, knight, elsewhere called John de Meoles.

taken from the 29th chapter, 1st of Chronicles, and 28th verse, (and there applied to David,) "*Mortuus est in senectute bona, plenum dierum et divitiis et gloria.*" He expatiated, as we learn from fol. 235, vol. 11. of his register, on the merits and virtues of the lamented deceased, in the presence of Robert Bishop of Sarum, Hugh de Courtenay, the son and heir of the illustrious Earl, Sir Thomas Courtenay, Sir John de Ralegh, Sir Oliver Dynham, Sir John Luterel, Sir Randolph de Alto Monte, Sir Ralph Bloyon, Sir William de Botreaux, and others. Agnes, Countess of Devon, had died on the 11th of the preceding June at Tiverton, and was buried at Cowick. On this occasion his conduct reminds us of Pammachius after the death of his wife Paulina, as described by St. Jerome, (*Epist: ad Pammachium.*) "*Cæteri mariti super tumulos conjugum spargunt violas, rosas, lilia, floresque purpureos, et dolorem pectoris his officiis consolantur. Pammachius noster sanctam favillam, ossaque veneranda elemosynæ balsamis rigat. His pigmentis atque odoribus fovet quiescentes, sciens scriptum; "Sicut aqua extinguit ignem, ita eleemosyna peccatum."*\* To every abbey in the county of Devon and to Plympton priory, the earl presented 20

A. D.

1340.

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\* "Other husbands scatter upon the tombs of their wives, violets, roses, lilies, and purple flowers—and assuage their grief of heart by these duties. My Pammachius watered the sacred embers, and venerated bones with the balsam of alms. With these perfumes and odours, he cherished the sleeping ashes knowing what is written, "As water extinguishes fire, so do alms sin."



- A. D marks; to the priories in the county, 10 marks each; to the convents of friars, 5 marks each. 1340. He gave to the fabric of Exeter cathedral, 100 marks, and the same sum to Bishop Grandisson's new foundation of St. Mary's college, at Ottery. Amongst his attendants he further distributed 40 marks."§

Arms of Courtenay, impaled with azure, a bend argent, inter 2 cotises and 6 lions rampant, or, for Bohun, Earl of Hereford.

*Hugh Courtenay, 2nd Earl of Devon*, commonly called Hugh Courtenay le Fitz, succeeded on his father's death

to the family honours and estates at the age of 33 years.\* He shortly after did homage and had livery of his lands,† which received an addition of the manor of Moreton by the death of his brother Robert, 3rd. Edward 3rd.

7th. Edward 3rd.,‡ he accompanied an expedition into Scotland, on which occasion the King obtained a great victory over the Scotch at Hallidon Hill, where it is said more than 36,000 of the enemy were slain.

§ The story mentioned by Dunsford, on the authority of Risdon, Westcot, Cleaveland and others, of this Earl having divided the living of Tiverton into the present four portions, is without foundation; the account of which, is reserved for the general history of the Church and living in part 4.

\* He was born 22nd March, 1327.

† "He inherited from his father 14 manors, besides Tiverton, 4 hundreds, 2 Advowsons, and the prebendaries of Hayes and Ken, in Devon, and 3 manors in Dorsetshire." (*Dugdale.*)

‡ "8th. Edward 3rd., he obtained a charter for a mercate (market) every Saturday, at his manor of Moreton, and two fairs; one on the eve, day, and morrow, after the feast of St. Margarets." (*Dugdale.*)

15th. Edward 3rd. a writ was directed to him commanding his attendance at Newcastle by the 24th January, with 60 men at arms. A. D.  
1341.

16th. Edward 3rd. he attended the King into Brittany with 1 banneret, 12 knights, 36 esquires, and 60 mounted archers of his retinue, and on every occasion he executed his trust with courage, ability, and fidelity. § 1342.

About this period the Earl of Devon's valuable services were lost to the King from a severe indisposition, which procured him leave from his attendance on his duties in parliament, or accompanying an expedition "that was made beyond sea." 24th. Edward 3rd. he obtained the King's leave to travel, in which year he built the house of White Friars in Fleet street.\* He was summoned to every parliament during the long reign of Edward 3rd., and towards the close of his distinguished life, 44th. Edward 3rd. he benevolently gave the market tolls as a perpetual benefit to the poor of the town and parish of Tiverton, appointing eleven

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§ 23rd. Edward 3rd., he was elected a knight of the most honorable order of the garter, at its first institution.

\* "In 35th. Edward 3rd., this Hugh Earl of Devonshire, Richard de Branscombe, high sheriff, Henry de la Pomeroy, &c., with consent of the County, and by the King's mandate, gave orders to Roger Piperel, and Thomas de Affeton, collectors of the assessments, to pay to Henry Percehay, and Nicholas Whiting, knights, £16. for their charges in serving the County as knights of the Shire in the last parliament held at Westminster; and they did likewise witness the receipt of the money; and the said order is dated at Exon, Anno R. R. Edwardi 111. 35." *Cleveland's His.* page 152.

F. 2.

A. D. of the inhabitants as guardians, or feoffees of  
1370. that charity.

During his father's life he resided at Colecombe, near Colyton, and on his manor of Exminster near Exeter, where William his fourth son archbishop of Canterbury, with others of his family, were born, but in the 14th. Edward 3rd. he removed to Tiverton castle.

He married\* Margaret daughter of Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and constable of England, (whose mother was one of the daughters of Edward 1st., and widow of John Earl of Holland,) by whom he had issue eight sons, and five daughters.

1. Hugh, born 11th April 1327, and died in his father's life-time. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Guy Brian, Lord of Tor-Brian, in Devonshire, and begat Hugh, who married Matilda, daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, (and Joan his wife, daughter of Edmund of Woodstock, son of Edward 1st., who for her beauty was commonly called the "Fair Maid of Kent," and afterwards married to the Black Prince;) half-sister to Richard 2nd. He dying without issue, she again married with Valerian, Earl of St. Paul.

2. Edward, who married Emeline, daughter of Sir John Dauney, knight. He died also in his father's life-time leaving two sons; Edward his

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\* August 11th, 1325.

successor, and Hugh Courtenay of Haccombe and Baunton, knight, who of Matilda Beaumont begat a son. Of this Hugh more hereafter. A. D.  
1370.

3. Philip Courtenay of Powderham, from whom were many descents.

4. John, who died without issue.

5. William, Bishop of Hereford, afterwards of London, who in 1381 was translated to the See of Canterbury.\*

6. Humphry, knight, who died without issue.

7. Peter, knight, called by Dugdale, Sir Piers de Courtenay, who died without issue.

8. Sir Thomas Courtenay, knight.

The Earl's daughters were,

1. Margaret, wife to John de Cobham, Baron of Cobham in Kent. She married secondly Sir Theobald Grenville.

2. Elizabeth, first married to Sir John Vere, knight, second son of Aubery de Vere, tenth Earl of Oxford, and thirdly wife of....Lutterell, one of her executors.

3. Katherine, wife to William lord Harrington, and secondly of Thomas Engaine, knight.

4. Joan, married to Sir John Chiverston; she was buried in the Augustine-Friars church, London.

5. Anne, who died unmarried.†

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\* For a particular account of William, archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal, as well as Sir Peter Courtenay, see Prince's Worthies of Devon.

† Cleveland extends his family to "6. Eleanor; 7. Guinora;

- A. D. 1377. He died at Tiverton 51st. Edward 3rd, and was buried in Exeter cathedral. By his will, which was written in French, bearing date at Tiverton, 1375, and preserved in Bishop Brantynghams register, he left many legacies, a translation of which will be found in the appendix.\* Margaret, Countess of Devon, survived the Earl fifteen years; and by her last will, bearing date 28th January, 14th. Rd. 2d., she requested to be buried by her lord and husband in Exeter cathedral;† “appointing that there should be no other hearse for her than plain bars to keep off the press of people, and only two tapers of 5lb. a piece, the one at her head, and the other at her feet, without any torches, or other lights.§ She died 16th December, 15th. Rd. 2nd. being nearly 80 years old.

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8. Isabella; and 9. Philipa; one of whom was married to Drayton, and another probably to Champernon, for, in Tiverton church were, formerly, the arms of Champernon impaled with those of Courtenay; and the Countess of Devonshire, their mother, appointed a person of that name one of her Executors.

\* See appendix, No. 30.

† “This altar tomb with their effigies engraved thereon, but without inscription, stands in the body of Exeter cathedral near the south aisle. In the window near this tomb are the arms of Courtenay by themselves, and also impaled with those of Bohun, before described, and in St. Peter’s at Tiverton, and at Crediton are similar decorations. “Over this monument, was a sumptuous, curious, little chapel built,” (Cleaveland, p. 154,) which was removed about 1620. It appears by Bishop Brantyngham’s register. “Ad instantium Comitisse Devon,” the Bishop allowed her son William, then Bishop of London, to consecrate the altar of this chauntry, 3rd June, 1381. Fol. 90; vol. 2. Reg.

§ For the remainder of her will containing many curious benefactions, see appendix, No. 31.

Hugh, the eldest son of Hugh and Margaret, called Hugo de Courtenay junior, accompanied an expedition to France 20th. Edward 3rd. and 21st. of the same reign, being at a Tournament at Eltham, he had a hood of white cloth, embroidered with dancing men, and buttoned with large pearls, presented to him by the King. This Hugh as well as his brother Edward, died during their father's life-time, as before mentioned, by which the title and inheritance devolved on

A. D.

1377.

Arms of Courtenay, impaling barry of 6, or and azure; on a chief of the first, 3 pallets between 2 esquires, bast, dexter and sinister of the 2d, an inescutcheon of pretence, ar, for Mortimer, Earl of March; 1st. wife: and or, on a chief gules, 3 plates, for Thomas Lord Camois; 2nd. wife.

*Edward*, the son of Edward and Emeline, and grandson of Hugh, second Earl of Devon,† at which period he was only 21 years of age, being born

2nd May, 1357, was third Earl of Devonshire.

In 1386 a charter was granted by John, King of Castile, and Leon, Duke of Lancaster, appointing Edward Earl of Devonshire, his Lieutenant in the County.\*

1386.

He was a distinguished Naval Commander, and the 1st. Rd. 2nd, he covenanted to serve the King

1399.

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† See Cleaveland's history of the Courtenay family, also Sir William Dugdale, page 201, where it is clearly proved that it was Edward, grandson of Hugh, second Earl of Devon, who succeeded to the titles, and not Edward his son, as Mr. Brooks, York Herald has asserted.

\* Collectanea topographie et genealogie vol. 7, contains this document, for the remainder of which see appendix, No. 34. It was copied from the original in possession of Sir John Trevelyan, baronet, of Nettlecombe, in the County of Somerset.

A. D. 1399. in his Royal Navy, under the command of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster for three months, receiving the accustomed wages of war; and the same year he was engaged for another quarter, to serve under Thomas of Woodstocke, Earl of Gloucester, with 80 men at arms, and 80 archers, of which himself, 5 knights, and 64 esquires were to form a part.

In the 2nd. Rd. 2nd., he did homage, and had livery of his lands, and on the 5th. Rd. 2nd., he accompanied the Earl of Salisbury, to meet the daughter of the King of the Romans, (afterwards Queen of Rd. 2nd.) at Gravellyne, and escorted her to Calais, accompanied by 500 spears, and as many archers.†

The 7th. R. 2nd. He was constituted admiral of all the King's fleet, from the mouth of the Thames, westward, and was chiefly instrumental in defeating the French, Flemish, and Spanish fleets, taking 100 of the ships, laden with 19,000 tons of wine, causing that beverage to be rendered at a mark a ton. He afterwards became Lord High Steward of England, and presided at the trial of the conspirators against Henry 4th.

This Earl was summoned to every parliament in the reigns of R. 2. H. 4, and 5; and in consequence of his many virtues, and being deprived of his eyesight some time before his death, he

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† Dugdale. Pole.

was called the blind and good Earl.

A. D.

1399.

Hollingshed says, that this Edward, Earl of Devon, built mills on the river Exe, and erected two additional weirs to those previously there; the one at St. James's, across the whole river, the other at Lampre-ford. He confirmed some grants of lands, made by his ancestors to Tor abbey, attaching his seal to the deed, in which are his arms supported by two swans;\* and it appears in "*Collectanea Topographie et genealogie*," vol. 7. p. 327, that Edwardus de Courtenay, Comes Devonix, 2nd. Henry 4th, had supporters 2 swans collared; on a helmet and coronet a plume of feathers.

"There is a great dispute," says Cleaveland, "between Heralds and Antiquaries, who this Earl's wife was: Mr. Mills, (an Herald) says, that Edward Earl of Devonshire, by Eleanor, daughter of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, had Hugh, thirteenth Earl of Devon, which Mr. Vincent, another Herald, denies." Mr. Westcote finds fault with Mr. Brooks, York Herald, for agreeing with Mr. Mills, which he says, is contrary to other men's assertions, and to the parliament roll of 1st Edward 4th., wherein it is said that Eleanor second daughter of Roger Mortimer died without issue. "In the Church of Tiverton," continues

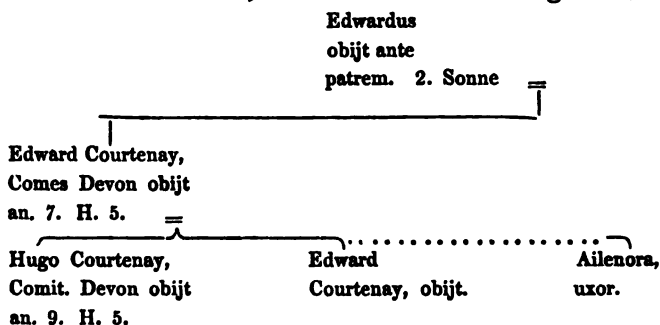
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\* See Cleaveland, page 205.



- A. D. Mr. Westcote, "the place of the Earl's chief residence, I find divers of the Courtenay arms with their matches impaled; amongst others the Coat of Lord Camois; also the arms of March and Ulster each impaled with Courtenay's. Now I take it to be thus; this Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, surnamed the blind, had issue Edward Lord Courtenay, who received knighthood 1st. Henry 4th, and died before his father, and it is highly probable that he was the Edward Courtenay who married Eleanor Mortimer. Now to prove that the Earl's eldest son was Edward, there have been lately divers deeds extant; one in 3rd. Henry 5th, concerning the advowson of the Rectory of Kentisbeer, wherein he is named "Dominus Edwardus Courtenay junior." The Earl's second son was Hugh, who succeeded him in his honours and lands."

These conjectures appear well founded; and I have a mss. pedigree of the Courtenay family written about 1590, wherein it is thus given;



In Mills's pedigree of this illustrious family,

also in my possession, are several annotations by **A. D.**  
**Mr. Joseph Hall, Serjeant at Arms, made in 1399.**  
1714, who, in referring to Eleanor Mortimer, has drawn his pen through "their issue," and written "issue by another wife, Hugh Courtenay Earl of Devonshire:" and regarding the dotted line above remarked on, as implying a doubt, I should be rather inclined to draw the latter conclusion, leaving it thus; Edward the good and blind Earl of Devon, had two wives; 1st. Eleanor Mortimer, daughter of Roger, Earl of March, (an aunt of Richard Duke of York, who laid just claim to the Crown of England, as being a lineal descendant of Lionel Duke of Clarence, 3rd. son of Edward 3rd.,) by whom he had no issue; and secondly Matilda a daughter of Thomas Lord Camois, by whom he had issue Edward, who died during his father's life-time, Hugh his successor, and Elizabeth wife of John Lord Harrington.

This Earl died at the castle of Tiverton, 5th **1419.**  
November, 1419, leaving a request in his last will, (dated at Tiverton the 29th June previous,) to have his body interred at Ford abbey; he was, however, laid by the side of his Countess in the family vault under the chapel, adjoining Tiverton church. A magnificent tomb was erected to their memory, with their images in alabaster finely gilt, and commemorated by a quaint inscription.\* He was succeeded by his

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\* Risdon, who wrote about 1630, says, "In the churchyard is a

A. D. second son,

1419. Arms of Courtenay,  
impaled with, gules,  
a lion rampant, with  
a border engrailed  
or, for Talbot.

*Hugh Courtenay, 4th Earl of Devon,*  
then aged 30 years, who doing  
homage, had livery of his lands,  
and the £18. 6s. 8d. annuity, or  
the *Tertium Denarium* of the County, and received  
by his ancestors from the time of Henry 1st.,  
by whom it was originally granted to Richard  
de Redvers, 1st. Earl of Devon of that name.  
He had previously been created Knight of the

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chapel built by the Earls of this County, and appropriated for their burials,  
(now demolished,) where there is a tomb, under which Edward Courtenay,  
Earl of Devon, and his Countess were interred, having their effigies of  
alabaster sometime sumptuously gilded; and was about 40 years ago to  
be seen, and which, it lamenteth me to write, time hath not so much defaced  
as men have mangled that magnificent monument, which had this written  
thereon, as some have seen :—

“Hoe! Hoe! who lyes here?  
‘Tis I, the good Erie of Devonshire,  
With Kate my wife to me full dere,  
Wee lived together fyfty-five yere.  
That wee spent wee had;  
That wee gave wee have;  
That wee lefte wee loste.”

In a preface prefixed to a sermon on the sin of Tithe stealing, preached  
and published by the Rev. Richard Newte, of Tidcombe, giving a full  
account of the destruction of the Earl of Devon's chapel, he mentions  
some singular circumstances connected with it, (see appendix, No. 32,)   
therefore it appears evident, that although much injury was done to  
the chapel and monuments, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, or possibly  
as far back as 1549, the absolute destruction of the chapel was  
effected by Cromwell's soldiers, as Mr. Newte, who lived at that  
time, could hardly have invented such a story.

This Earl died seized of 58 manors and hundreds, 7 boroughs, 2 castles,  
4 hamlets, and the priory of Lodres. See Dugdale, page 56.

Bath at the coronation of Henry 4th., and was much employed in the wars of Henry 5th., by sea and land, having succeeded his father and elder brother Edward, as Commander in chief of the King's fleet. He rendered great assistance at the siege of Rouen, by blocking up the Seine with 100 ships. "In 7th, Henry 5th., 1419, he served the King again in his fleet with 3 knights, 376 men at arms, and 780 archers; and that year there was an indenture made between Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, Lieutenant to the King in a sea voyage for defence of the realm, and Sir John Arundell of Trerice, for accompanying him therein."†

A. D.  
1419.

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† "In the time of this Hugh, I find in the Exchequer, (says Sir Peter Ball,) a very notable record of his possessions, particularly distinguishing what and how much he held, as belonging to his Earldom of *Devon*, and what as belonging to his Barony of *Okehampton*. *Hugh Courtenay*, son and heir of Edward, late Earl of *Devon*, holdeth of the King in *Capite* £18. 6s. 8d. yearly revenues, to him and his heirs for ever, out of the profits of the County of *Devon*, the honour of the castle and manor with the borough of *Plympton*; the manor and borough of *Tiverton*; the manor of *Exminster*; the manor of *Topsam* and *Twilebeor*; the manor of *Pole-Auton*; the hundred of *Wonnegford* and *Harridge*; free fishing in the river *Ese*; one acre of land in *Woodly*; three acres of land in *Stoke-Damarel*; one messuage, one plow land, and an acre of meadow in *Bateford*; £8. yearly in his lordship of *Holboughton*; the advowsons of the churches of *Throwleigh*, *Milton-Damarel*, *St. Leonard* by *Exon*; the priory of *St. James* near *Exon*; the abbey of *Buckland*, with the appurtenances, and half the Fair of *Crulleditch*, with the profits of the same, besides the manor of *Cadleigh*, *Milton Damarel*, *Soldenharn*, *Black-Auton*, and *Boleby*, with the appurtenances, all in the County of *Devon*; and the manor of *East-Coker*, *Hardington*, and *Ashcomb* in the County of *Somerset*; and the honour and castle of *Christchurch*, and the manor of *Ringwood*, in the County of *Southampton*; and the whole *Isle of Wight*, with the appur-

- A. D. He did not long enjoy his honours and estates,  
 1419. but having married Anne, daughter of Richard Lord Talbot, and sister to the renowned Sir John Talbot, created Earl of Shrewsbury, by whom he had issue, Thomas his heir, and John, he died

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tenances, are, and antiently were, parcels of the same Earldom. And the honour, castle, and manor of *Okehampton*, the manor of *Sampford Courtenay*, *Churbear*, *Duelton*, the manor of *Newenham*, near *Chittlehamholt*, the borough and manor of *Chymleigh*, the manor of *Es-Island*, and *Kenn*, the borough of *Kensteed*, the manor of *Whimble* and *Ailesbear*, the hamlet of *Newton-Popleford*, the manor of *Huntsbear*, *Whitwell*, and *Culliton*, the borough of *Culliford*, the manor of *Whitford*, and *Musberry*; one messuage, one hide of land in *Brokeland*, *Tryll*, and *Smalcombe*; seven messuages, one hide of land, one mill in *Pontesford* near *Columpton*, one acre of land in *Affington*; one messuage, 100 acres of land, and six acres of pasture in *Seylake* near *Halberton*; the advowsons of the prebends of *Heighs-Cutton* and *Kenn*, in the chapel of the castle of *Eron*, the advowson of the abbey of *Ford*, and of the Priory of *Cowick*, in the County of Devon; and the manor of *Hannington*, in the County of *Somerset*; the manor of *Iwerne-Courtenay*, in the County of *Dorset*, are all parcels of the honour of *Okehampton*, by the service of 90 knight's fees pertaining to the barony of *Okehampton*.

But besides these, there were a multitude of knight's fees held by knight's service." Sir Peter Ball's mss. See Cleaveland, p. 210.

The following "copy of a grant of this Hugh Earl of Devonshire, (which I had communicated to me, saith Sir Peter Ball, by Mr. Sampson Lennard, Herald,) the original of which he saw under seal, for the rarity of the precedent I here transcribe: The grant is in French."

"To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting. Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon and Baron of Okehampton, son to the most noble Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, and Baron of Okehampton, wisheth health in God. Know ye, That we have given and granted unto our dear and beloved Cousin Hugh Lutterell, Knight, and Lord of D'onstarre, to wear our badge, viz., a white Boar armed d'Or, with this difference only, that he put one double rose d'Or in the Shoulder of the said Boar, to have and to hold this Badge of our Gift to him the said Hugh Lutterell and his heires for ever. In testimony of which we have put our Seal to this our letter, dated at Plymouth, the 13th. July, in the 7th year of Henry 5th."

16th June, 1422, leaving her, says Cleaveland, A. D. 1422.  
 “a fair dowry; viz., the manors of Tiverton, Exminster, and Topsham, Chirbear, Caverley, Newnham and Musberry, the moiety of the fairs of Crulleditch, with their profits, one messuage and one carucat\* of land, in Brokelouterel and Smallcomb, the hundreds of Tiverton, Exminster and Harridge, the free fishing in the river Exe, the perquisites of the court for the borough of Tiverton and Caverley, to £18. 6s. 8d. rent yearly, payable by the Sheriff of Devon, £20. 8s. 5d. out of the demesne lands of Holboghton, and 40s. rent of assize issuing out of divers burgages in Kenford, all in the County of Devon; as also the manor of Hillesdon in the County of Bucks.” Anne, Countess of Devon,† obtained the King’s leave to marry secondly John Botreaux esquire, of an ancient family long resident at Molland Botreaux,‡ near Southmolton, and died 16th January, 1440.§

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\* “Carucate (from caruca, a plough;) as much land as can reasonably be tilled in a year by one plough.” It is synonymous with “Plough-lands,” which is generally estimated in value at £50 per annum.” Burns Law dictionary.

† This lady on the 21st January 1424, obtained a licence from Bishop Lacy, to have divine service performed in the rectory house of Tydcombe, in Tiverton parish, where she then resided. Bishop Lacy’s register.

‡ “So called of the lord’s thereof, which had their dwelling in this country, and in Cornwall, from Henry 1st. to Henry 6th’s. time.” Pole’s Devon, page 418.

§ In removing some old building, in Catharine street, Exeter,

- A. D. Arms of Courtenay, impaling quarterly, 1422. France and England; a border compound ar and az. for Beaufort Marquis of Dorset. } *Thomas*, son of Hugh, 5th Earl of Devon, was only eight years old at his father's death. In 8th. Henry 6th, he covenanted to serve the King for a year with 6 men at arms, and 21 archers in an expedition then made into France. His Majesty sailed from Dover 27th April, and was crowned at Paris shortly after. In 14th, Henry 6th, he assisted in the relief of Calais, with one knight, 24 men at arms, and 470 archers; and on the 19th, Henry 6th, he had livery of his extensive possessions.
- 1435.
- 1440.
1448. In 1448, a long dispute occurred between Thomas, Earl of Devon, and the Earl of Arundel, (the ancestor of the present Duke of Norfolk,) on the subject of precedence; which was at length adjudged to the latter, on account of his

September 1839, an interesting relic of antiquity was discovered in a seal which must have belonged to Anne, Countess of Devon, bearing this inscription round the outer circle, in old English characters; "Sigillum Anne Courtenay Countesse Devonie."

The matrix (in the Earl of Devon's possession) is of brass, highly gilt, and in remarkably good preservation. How this seal came in such a situation cannot be conjectured, but there were cir-

cumstances at the time which led to a belief of its having formerly been the site of some religious edifice, of which there were so many in Exeter.



being in possession of the feudal honours of the castle of Arundel, and the Earl of Devon was admitted to be second in rank.

A. D.  
1454.

Shortly after the commencement of the Civil war, between the rival houses of York and Lancaster,\* he was accused of high treason by the Duke of York, but acquitted by his peers. This Earl and his family were strong adherents of the Lancastrian line, to which he was by marriage nearly allied; but his support proved fatal to himself and his three sons.

The 33, Henry 6th. a dispute arose between the Earl of Devon, and Lord Bonville, on the subject of a couple of hounds; "which could by no mediation of friends be qualified or appeased; until it was valiantly tried by a single combat on Clist-heath, near Exeter, wherein, (as Dugdale tells us,) this Lord (Lord Bonville) prevailed;"† but Westcot gives a different result, saying that "after they had well tried each other's strength and valour with their naked swords, they embraced each other, and ever after continued in love and unity." The account given in Prince of Lord Bonville's death, and an original letter, written during the reign of Henry 6th, and published in 1781, would lead to a different

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\* These two houses chose for their badges the red and white rose, the former was that of York, and the latter of Lancaster.

† Prince's Worthies of Devon. page 111.

H.



- A. D. conclusion.† There is, however, full reason to  
 1454. suspect that prejudice may have dictated a harshly  
 drawn statement, which bears all the outward  
 signs of authenticity.

1458. Thomas, Earl of Devon, married Margaret  
 Beaufort, second daughter of John Earl of Somerset,  
 and Marquis of Dorset, who was the eldest son  
 of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by his  
 third wife Catherine Swineford, by whom he had  
 issue three sons, viz. Thomas, his successor, Henry,  
 and John; and two daughters, Jane, first married  
 to Sir Roger Clifford, knight,§ and had issue  
 Charles; and secondly to Sir William Knivet;  
 and Elizabeth married to Sir Hugh Conway, knight.  
 He died in the abbey of Abingdon, under strong  
 suspicion of having been poisoned, 3rd February  
 1458, on attending the King when about to meet a  
 deputation from both parties, with a hope of  
 effecting a reconciliation between the rival houses.\*

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† See appendix No. 33. These curious letters forcibly exhibit the extent of party animosity existing at the period of a war which extinguished the flower of our English nobility.

§ Who was beheaded on Tower-hill, 3rd. Richard 3rd, 1485. He was second son of Thomas Lord Clifford of Westmorland, by his wife Jane, daughter of Thomas Lord Dacre.

\* "This Thomas Courtenay, Earl of Devon, when King Henry 6th founded Kings college in Cambridge, and Eton college near Windsor, did, in all probability, get one portion of the rectory of Tiverton (called Priors portion) to be appropriated, and did give it to King's college; as also the perpetual advowson of Samford Courtenay in Devon. Sir W. Pole says that Samford Courtenay was given to King's college by Henry 8th, on the attainder of the Marquis of Exeter." Cleaveland, page 219. Pole is, however, in error, as the donation of the latter living did not take place until the time of Elizabeth.

*Thomas Courtenay*, son and successor, of Thomas, first of that name, succeeded as 6th. Earl of Devon, and was 26 years of age on his father's death; shortly after which he did homage, and had livery of his lands. He inherited his deceased father's political principles with the honours of his house, in his strong adherence to the Lancastrian party, and received as a reward from Henry 6th., an annuity of 100 marks, out of the manors of Milverton and Mershwood.

A. D.  
1458.

He enjoyed the earldom only three years; for after various changes of fortune, being engaged in all the battles between the rival houses, he was taken prisoner by Edward 4th. at the bloody battle of Towton,\* (wherein the Lancastrians were completely defeated, with a loss sustained on both sides upwards of 36,700 English.†) He was executed at York, with two other Earl's, and their heads placed over Micklegate-bar in that city, to resent a similar indignity offered to the Duke of York, after his fall at the battle of Wakefield, in 1460.‡

1461.  
  
  
  
  
  
1462.

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\* The battle was fought on Palm-Sunday, 29th March, 1461. See appendix, No. 35. Letter 1. Vol. 1. Edward 4th.

† Henry's history of Great Britain, Vol. 6. p. 177, records a still greater number.

‡ It is said that the head of the Duke of York, which had boldly aspired to a golden diadem, was placed on a pole at the top of this bar, covered with a paper crown in derision. Shakespeare alluded to this circumstance, when he makes Queen Margaret say, in the play of Henry 6th. "Off with his head, and set it on York gates; so York may overlook

- A. D. As Thomas, the last Earl of Devon was at-  
 1462. tainted of high treason, all his large possessions  
 were confiscated; but Edward 4th hoping to  
 induce *Henry Courtenay*, brother of the last  
 Thomas, to support his cause, restored to him all  
 his family inheritance; but as the attainder was  
 never removed, he did not succeed to the titles.  
 The King's hopes however, were vain, and Henry  
 retaining the principles of his ancestors in firmly  
 adhering to the Lancastrian cause, was accused  
 of being engaged in a conspiracy against the King,  
 found guilty of high treason, and executed at  
 1466. Salisbury, March 4th, 1466.

Or, a chevron gules within a  
 border engrailed, sable, for  
 Stafford, impaling gules, 3 bars  
 compound, ar. and az. for Barry.

On the death and attainder  
 of Henry Courtenay, *Humphry*  
*Stafford* of Southwicke,\* in  
 the West Riding of Yorkshire, was invested, by  
 Edward 4th., with a great part of the Courtenay  
 inheritance.† On the 20th April, 1465, he was

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the town of York." See appendix, No. 36. Letter 25. Vol. 2nd.  
 Edward 4th.

\* Son of William Stafford of Hooke and Southwicke, esquire, and  
 Katherine, daughter of Sir John Chideoke, and grand-daughter of Robert  
 Fitzpaine, and Ela his wife.

† The following affords sufficient evidence, if, proof were wanting,  
 that part of the possessions thus conveyed to Humphry Stafford, was  
 the manor of Tiverton. "Tiverton: Rex concessit Humphrido Stafford,  
 Militi, Manerium et Burgum de Tiverton in Comitatu Devonie, et alia  
 Hundreda, Castra, &c., sibe et Heredibus masculis." Originalia, 1. Ed. 4.  
 Rotulo 78. Et vide Originalia, 9. Ed. 4. Rotulo 30; et Originalia, 11.  
 Ed. 4. Rot. 54.

"De Manerio et Burgo de Tiverton, alias Tyverton, et Advocacione tertie

created Lord Stafford, and on the 17th May, 1470, was advanced to the title of Earl of Devon.† A. D. 1470.

*Stafford's* honors were of short duration, for in the course of the same year, he was sent by Edward 4th, with 600 archers to support the Earl of Pembroke and his brother Richard, who with 18,000 well furnished Welshmen were employed to suppress the Northern insurrection. The two Earls accompanied each other to Banbury, at which place the Earl of Devon took up his abode at an Inn. A fair damsel\* was also a resident at the house, of whom both Earls became enamoured, and contrary to the arrangement entered into between them, that the first in possession should remain so, the Earl of Devon was dispossessed by the Earl of Pembroke, which excited so much discord† between them that, unmindful of his duty to his Sovereign, and the cause in which he was engaged, he departed with his

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partis Curatie de Tiverton, concessis, Humphrido Stafford, Militi. Originalia, 4. Ed. 4. Rotulo 15." Jones's index to the records. Vol. 2.

‡ "This Humphrey, some years before he was made Earl of Devon, by his testament, bearing date 3rd September, 1463, bequeathed his body to be buried in the Church of our Lady at Glastonbury, and appointed that Mr. Michael Goss, and Mr. Watts, then wardens of the Gray-Friers in Exeter, should, for the Salvation of his Soul, go to every Parish-Church in the Counties of Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, Devon, and Cornwall, and say a sermon in every Church, and Town and other. And because he could not recompense such whom he had offended, he desired them to forgive his poor soul, that it might not be in danger." (*Dugdale.*)

\* Speed's History of Great Britain.

† This story is confirmed by almost every Historian.

- A. D. power, whereby the Earl of Pembroke, and Richard  
1470. his brother were overcome and taken by those of  
the North, and 5000 of the Welshmen slain on a  
plain called Danes-more near the town of Edgcote,  
three miles from Banbury, 6th July.‡

The King on being informed of this disaster and the cause of it, directed his letters to the sheriffs of Devon and Somerset, to make diligent search for Humphry Stafford, Earl of Devon, and execute him without delay. He was in consequence found in a village within Brentmarsh, conveyed from thence to Bridgwater, and beheaded August 17th 1470, leaving behind him "this disgraceful title, 'an Earl of three months standing and no more,†'" and his body was buried in an arch of the South Cross of Glastonbury abbey. He married Isabel, daughter and heir of John Barry, knight, by whom he had no issue.

On the execution of Humphry Stafford, *John Courtenay*, the youngest son of Thomas, and brother of the two preceding Earls of that family, regained possession of his titles and estates, in consequence of the temporary restoration of Henry 6th. He attached himself firmly to the fortunes of the house of Lancaster, and used every exertion to revive their sinking cause\* after the

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‡ Stowe's Annals, page 422.

† Mills's catalogue of Honor. page 473.

\* Stowe and Speed both say, the Earl of Devon was with the Queen, and encouraged her to make another effort.

fatal battle of Barnet. At Tewkesbury he commanded "the rearward" (reserve) of Margaret's army, and fell sword in hand at Tewkesbury, 14th May, 1471. Thus the three brothers sealed with their blood the bond of fidelity to the house of Lancaster, and with them expired the senior branch of the ancient and illustrious house of Courtenay. The last Earl was buried at Tewkesbury, and being attainted, his honors and estates became again forfeited.

The victory at Tewkesbury having secured to Edward 4th. the crown of England, he gave a portion of this Earl's inheritance, (part of which was the manor of Tiverton,) to

Gules, 4 fusils in fess, ar-  
ermine, for Dynham, im-  
paled with or, a bar be-  
tween 2 chevrons, gules,  
for Ratcliffe.

*Sir John*, afterwards *Lord Dynham*,† as a recompense for his firm adherence, and faithful services to the house of York.

He married Margaret, widow of Sir John Ratcliffe, daughter and heir of Walter, Lord Fitzwalter, and had four sisters,; 1. Margaret, wife of Sir Nicholas Carew; 2. Katherine, wife of Sir T. Arundell of Lanherne; 3. Elizabeth, first married to Fulk Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarren, and secondly to Sir John Sapcots; and 4. Jane, wife of John, Lord Zouch, whose heirs general succeeded to the family inheritance, (with the exception of the manor of Tiverton,) on the death of Henry, son of John, Lord Dynham. In what way the manor of Tiverton was given to this family, does not appear, or why, on the decease of the heir male,

- A. D. this property reverted to the crown, but it was  
 1472. held only three years, as the King in 1475, gave  
 this manor, (with many other estates in Devon,)

Arms of George, Duke  
 of Clarence, France and  
 England, a label of 3,  
 ermine, a canton gules,  
 impaled with gu. a salteir  
 ar. a label of 3, com-  
 pound, ar. and az.

} to his brother *George, Duke of  
 Clarence*, as appears by the follow-  
 ing extract from Jones's index to  
 the records, vol. 2. "Rex concessit

Georgio, Duci Clarentiæ, Manerium Burgum de  
 Tiverton, honorem et Hundredum de Tiverton,  
 et alia, sibi et Hæredibus Masculis. Originalia,  
 14. Edward 4th. Rotulus 23, 24, and 25." But  
 he was not destined long to participate in the  
 benefits thus conferred on him; for being accu-  
 sed of high treason, in appearing in arms with  
 the Earl of Warwick, purposing to dethrone Ed-  
 ward 4th, he was tried, and being found guilty,  
 was condemned, and executed on the 11th March

1478. 1478. The only favour said to have been granted  
 him, was the power of choosing the mode of his  
 death; and to avoid the distress of a public exe-  
 cution, he was drowned in a butt of Malmsey  
 Madeira,\* and buried at Tewkesbury in Gloucester-  
 shire, by the side of his Dutchess Isabel, daughter  
 and heir of Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, who  
 died by poison a short time previously.† He left  
 a son and daughter, the former Edward Earl of

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\* The room in the Tower, rendered notorious by the perpetration  
 of this infamous act, was the same in which the Countess of Salisbury,  
 Anne Boleyn, and Lady Jane Grey were confined. It was attached to that  
 part of the tower destroyed by fire in 31st October, 1841.

† Speed's History of Great Britain.

Warwick, who passed most of his life in prison, and was, at the age of 24, executed on Tower-hill in the reign of Henry 7th, 21st. November, 1499, leaving an indelible stain of disgrace on the memory of that King, and thus destroying the last male heir of the Plantagenet line. His daughter Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, ended her life on the scaffold, without trial, in Henry 8th's time, 27th May, 1541, aged 62, and with her perished the last of the Plantagenets.

A. D.  
1478.

Some accounts, not well authenticated, state that the Duke of Clarence was succeeded in this manor and lordship of Tiverton, by his daughter Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, as a dowry settled on her in marriage, but there appears no evidence to justify the assertion.

Dunsford states her death to have taken place in 1483, or commencement of 1484; but the unhappy and cruel termination of her life in 1541, is a well authenticated historical fact, and requires no further refutation.

Ar, a bend engrailed  
sa. On a canton of the  
1st. a horses head coup-  
ped of the second, for  
Ratcliffe.

*Sir Richard Ratcliffe*, knight,†  
had the lordship and manor of  
Tiverton granted him by letters  
patent from Richard 3rd., dated  
6th September, 1484. He enjoyed the estates

1484.

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† He was a great favorite and tool of Richard 3rd., and one of the three "lewd Councillors," and "fawning followers" as Speed expresses it, of the King's, "that some better affected, set forth the present and oppressed



- A. D. and honours conferred on him only one year, for  
 1485. on the accession of Henry 7th, 1485, the Courtenay family were restored to that inheritance, of which they were deprived by their devotion to the house of Lancaster.

Arms of Courtenay, impaled with gules, 3 mulberry leaves ar. 2 and 1, for Cogan, 1st wife; ar. 3 chevrons, sa, for L'archdeacon, 2nd wife; and barry of 6 pieces, verry and gu. for Beaumont, 3rd wife.

The first branch of this noble family, having terminated in the death of John, Earl of Devon without issue, the inheritance was by Henry 7th.

restored to the descendants of the next line, that of *Sir Hugh Courtenay*, of Haccombe, knight, who was the second son of Edward, the son of Hugh, 2nd. Earl of Devon, and brother of Edward the good and blind Earl.\*

Sir Hugh Courtenay had three wives; 1st. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Cogan, of Baunton, and widow of Sir Fulk Fitzwarren.† He married secondly Philippa, daughter and one of

estate in these scoffing Rhymes, to their further disgrace, divulging their names in manner as followeth;—

The Cat, the Rat, and Lovell the Dogge,  
 Rule all England under a Hogge."

Alluding to the names of Ratcliffe the King's mischievous minion, and of Catesby his secret traducer, and to the King's cognizance, which was the Bore; for which William Collingborne esquire, who had been Sheriffe of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, was condemned, and upon the Tower-hill executed with all extremitie," but under pretence of his having engaged in the Duke of Buckingham's rebellion. Speed's History of Great Britain, p. 928.

\* See page 23. Book 2.

† Hugh was sometimes called of Baunton from his residence there after their marriage.

the co-heirs of Sir Warren L'archdeacon, of Haccombe, knight, (widow of Nicholas Lord Carew, and heiress to her mother's inheritance,) by whom he had one daughter Joan, married to Sir Robert de Vere, knight, second son of Aubrey de Vere Earl of Oxford, whose descendants afterwards inherited the title; and thirdly Maud, daughter of Sir William Beaumont, of Youlston, in the parish of Shirwell, near Barnstaple, who died July 3rd, 7th. Edward 4th., leaving issue a son named Hugh, (the successor to his father's estates,) and a daughter Margaret, wife of Sir Theobald Grenville.

A. D.

1485.

Sir Hugh Courtenay, son of Sir Hugh, bore the title of Boconock from his residence in Cornwall, and he was returned Knight of that Shire the 25th. and 28th. of Henry 6th. He had two sons, Sir Edward, who succeeded him in his estates and was afterwards created Earl of Devon, and Sir Walter. Also four daughters, whose descendants ultimately succeeded to the Courtenay inheritance.

Arms of Sir Edward, 3  
torteaux in a field or,  
with a label of 3 points  
in chief, azure, impaled  
with the same.

*Sir Edward Courtenay*, knight,  
son of Sir Hugh as above stated,  
was created, by Henry 7th., Earl  
of Devon, and the patent bears date 26th October,  
the first of that reign, 1485. By this charter, the  
Earl was granted 23 manors and hundreds, 8 ad-  
vowsons and prebends, and the fishing in the river  
Exe, in Devonshire; 6 manors and hundreds  
in Somerset; 7 manors in Dorset, Berks, Bucks,  
and Bedford; and 18 manors, hundreds, and

- A. D. advowsons in Cornwall, besides other possessions.\*  
 1485. He was a firm supporter of the Duke of Richmond, and was chiefly instrumental in placing him on the British Throne. He accompanied the King in his  
 1491. expedition into France 1491, and bore a conspicuous part (accompanied by his son William,) during the insurrection headed by Perkin Warbeck, in an encounter with whose forces at Exeter, "he was hurt in the arme with an arrow, and so were many of his men, but fewe slaine."†

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay of Molland,‡ and had by her William Courtenay, his son and heir, who succeeded him in his honours and estates. He died in 1509, and by his will dated 27th May, 1st. Henry 8th. 1509, and registered in the Prerogative Office of the archbishop of Canterbury, "he desired, if it might be conveniently done, to be buried in the chapel at Tiverton near his lady.‡

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\* It was by this charter that the present Earl of Devon was enabled to claim the title.

† Stowe's annals, page 481.

‡ Sir Philip Courtenay of Powderham, and Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Lord Hungerford's second son Sir Philip, was the first resident at Molland. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of. . . . Hengeston.

‡ For the remainder of this will, see appendix, No. 38. Chantry's were chapels endowed with a yearly revenue, for the maintenance of one or more priests, to sing mass daily for the souls of the donors, or others appointed by them. "They owe their origin, to the opinion so generally prevalent in the Christian church of the efficacy of prayer in respect of the dead as well as the living." (See penny Cyclopædia, vol. 6. page 485.) The

The arms of William Courtenay, Earl of Devon, or, 3 torteaux, a file of 3 points az. impaled with the arms of England.

*William Courtenay*, first of A. D. the name, and 10th Earl of Devon son of Edward Courtenay, succeeded to his father's inheritance.

At the coronation of Henry 7th. he was created knight of the Bath, and in 1497, 13th. of the same reign, he accompanied his father the Earl of Devonshire, when the city of Exeter was besieged by Perkin Warbeck, on which occasion he behaved with much valour. At the marriage of Prince Arthur, those engaged in a tournament held in celebration of the occasion, appeared under various devices, "Lord William Courtenay, (brother-in-law to the Queen,) made his appearance riding on a red dragon led by a giant with a great tree in his hand."† He married Katherine, youngest daughter of Edward 4th., which proved a source of great distress to him, as it led to a suspicion of attachment to the house of York, and being accused of holding treasonable correspondence with his wife's kinsman, Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk,\* he was, in 1502 thrown into prison, where he remained until the death of Henry 7th.,

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words in the will "go to the performance of my chauntry in the said chapel," refer to the obituary service. Some rents are still collected in Tiverton, under the title of *Chauntry rents*, but they have no connection with the above. See Dunsford, page 93. and page 72. book 2. of this History.

† Strickland's lives of the Queens of England.

\* He was the second son of John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Elizabeth daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, sister to Edward 4th., and a first cousin to the Princess Katherine, Countess of Devon.

- A. D. in 1509.† On the accession of Henry 8th. he was  
 1509. released, and the year following accompanied the  
 1510. King as one of his aids, at a tournament held at  
 Westminster, where the third prize was presented  
 to him by the Queen, the King himself having the  
 first, and the Earl of Essex the second.

1511.

This Earl died 9th June 1511, of a pleurisy, at Greenwich, and was buried at St. Paul's, leaving issue, Henry and Margaret; and although the King's letters patent of the Earldom of Devonshire, (the succession to which he had forfeited by his attainder,) bearing date 10th May, 1511, were made out some weeks previously to his death, he was not formerly invested with that dignity, and except by an especial order from the King, he could not be buried as an Earl. "His body being cered, remained in his chamber in the Court at Greenwich, until Thursday, 12th of the same month, when in the afternoon being well accompanied, it was conveyed by barge to St. Paul's wharf, where attended by several gentlemen, and the four orders

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† This alliance with the house of York, which appeared calculated to raise the Courtenay family to higher eminence and greater honor, was on the contrary, productive of consequences even more disastrous to them, than their former alliance with the house of Lancaster. It excited the jealousy of Henry 7th., who could not conceal his hatred to every branch of the house of York, though he had himself married the eldest daughter of Edward, to strengthen his title to the crown. It created so much suspicion in the breast of Henry 8th., as to occasion the violent death of the heir of this marriage, and was the cause of the long imprisonment of his son, which ended in the extermination of all but the younger branch of this ancient and noble family.

of Friars was solemnly brought to the Black-friars with those trophies due to his degree, the Lord Marquis of Dorset being principal Mourner. The Offertory and Mass finished, he was there buried by a Bishop, on the South side the High-Altar, leaving his said lady one of his seven executors."§

A. D.

1527.

*Katherine de Courtenay*, his wife, succeeded by letters patent, in the possession of the manors of Plympton, Oakhampton, and Tiverton,† the castle at the latter place forming her chief residence, during the sixteen years of her widowhood, where she died on Friday, November 15th, 1527, about three o'clock in the afternoon. "Her body being embalmed, cered, leaded, and chested, was conveyed from thence to the chapel belonging to the castle,\* and placed within a bar, the coffin being covered with a pall of black velvet, having a cross of white satin, and upon that another pall of cloth of gold, with a white cross of silver

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† De literis regis Henrici, patentibus factis, Dominæ Catherinæ, Comitissæ Devonæ, uni filiarum Regis Edwardi iv, de Castris, Honoribus. Villis, Burgis, Manoriis et Hundredis de Plympton, Okehampton, et Tyverton et aliis, in comitatibus Devonæ &c." Jones's Index to the Records. Vol. 2.

§ Sandford's Genealogy.

\* The chapel was richly adorned for the occasion. Among other ornaments were two silver gilt candlesticks each having two branches, holding lights of virgin wax, which, with twelve tapers were kept burning night and day.

† John Chichester, John Fulford, Andrew Kilston, John Fortescue, Bartholomew Fortescue, and John Whittinge.

- A. D. tissue, garnished with six escutcheons of her arms.  
1527. The corpse was attended day and night until Monday December 2nd., when, in formal procession, it was brought to St. Peter's Church under a canopy of black velvet, borne by six esquires,"† and the coffin was carried by six tall yeomen, attended by Sir Thomas Dennys, Sir John Bassett, Sir William Carew, and Philip Champernon esquire. At each corner, (bearing a banner of a Saint, viz., of the Trinity, Our Lady, Saint Edward, and Saint Catherine,) walked George Carew, Nicholas Ashford, Richard Chudleigh, and Alexander Wood esquires, all in black gowns and hoods. Eight bannerels were carried by as many gentlemen, four on one side, and four on the other, namely, Philip Courtenay, Edward Speke, Richard Fortescue, George Yearde, Richard Shute, Henry Waldron, esquires, and two others of the names of Bluett and Moyer; and the whole was accompanied by forty-two old men bearing stall torches. The chief mourner was the Lady Carew, assisted by Sir Piers Edgcombe, and her train was borne by a gentleman, followed by six ladies.

The body was received into the church by the abbot of Montacute, accompanied by the abbots of Torbay and Ford, who sprinkled the coffin with holy water. The funeral was also attended by many other persons of high ecclesiastical rank, who, with the abbots and 100 gentlemen

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† Sandford's Genealogy, page 419.

had preceded the corpse in the procession, following in the order of their rank next after the holy cross. The coffin was placed in the chapel belonging to the family,\* covered with a rich pall of cloth of gold tissue, upon which was a cross of silver :

A. D.  
1527.

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\* This chapel is supposed to have occupied that part of the eastern end of the church which projects from the north wall, and the entrance was most probably on the site of the present vestry door. Risdon (page 72.) describes it as having been demolished before he wrote, which was about 1630. In a note attached to page 52, book 2, of this History, I have remarked that a portion only of this chapel was destroyed in either Ed. 6th. or Queen Elizabeth's days ; and my conjecture is founded on the following extract from the preface to "a discourse on the impiety of Tithe stealing," and published by the Rev. Richard, or Samuel Newte, rector of Tidcombe portion, in 1711 : and although in the note in question my readers have been referred to the appendix, No. 32, it appears desirable to complete the subject at this place. The extract is as follows, "A person named William Hill, of Tiverton, who in the beginning of the Parliament's Rebellion, heard that some were demolishing the Earl of Devonshire's Chapel, which stood in the Church-yard, and were carrying away from it what they could. He came thither upon the same wicked design, and found that they had broke to Pieces a Stately Monument made for the Earl & his Countess, & carried away the materials, all the Ornaments within, & the Lead at Top, & upon which, he Lamented his misfortune for coming so late, & said, 'now they have taken away all before I came, there is nothing left for me.' But looking up, he saw a Bell at the end of it, which they called the Saints Bell. 'Oh,' says he, 'I'll have this.' And getting a Ladder, he goes up to take it down, and so letting it slip through his Hands, the Brim of it cut off his Toes on both Feet, by which means he became a Cripple, & wasting his Substance & a small Tenement he had, in the cure of the wounds ; he became miserably Poor & unfit for Business, went about a Begging upon his Heels with a Crutch & an underhand staff, & so he continued several years, till a gentleman gave him a little Horse, that he might ride farther off & beg abroad ; as he did for some time, till at last in the Parish of Anstey in this County, he & his Horse were found Dead together in a Ditch. A dismal end of a Sacrilegious Person."

*Preface. page 5 and 6.*

It was either in this chapel or the one within the castle, the ruins of which still remain, that the chantries, or prayers for the dead, were said on behalf

K.



- A. D. 1527. whilst four lights of virgin wax displayed the splendor of the whole. A dirge having been sung and other funeral ceremonies performed, the company returned in the same order to the castle, where they partook of refreshments which had been provided for them. The body lay in state, watched by attendants the whole night.

“The following morning at seven, the company proceeded to church in the same solemn procession, and mass of Requiem was sung by the abbot of Montacute, (who acted as principal on this mournful occasion,) in which he was assisted by the most eminent choristers from Exeter, as well as from every part of the county. Offerings were then made by all the persons present, in the order of their rank, beginning with the chief mourner, whose contribution was 6s. 8d; the knights and gentlemen, the mayor and aldermen of Exeter, the yeomen and other attendants, gave in proportion. Dr. Sarsley, preached from the words, “*Manus Domini tetigit me.*” When he had concluded and the service was finished, the body was let down into a vault, on which the officers of the deceased princess broke their staves. The lord suffragan, (the abbot of

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of the souls of the Courtenay family. In page 68, I have referred to Mr. Dunsford's remarks on this subject Note 45, page 93, as follows; “some rents are now collected under the title of chauntry rents by Mr. Wm. Smale, merchant of Tiverton, whose father had bought them; and probably the same that were given by Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, for the purpose before mentioned.” These rents formerly held by Mr. Smale, are not, at present in his possession, neither can I discover what is become of them.

Montacute) with all the other abbots and prelates, returned in their pontificals to the castle, where they partook of a splendid entertainment.\* Provision was made for 500 persons, and a dole of 100 marks was divided to 8000 poor people, two pence to each, to pray for the soul of the deceased princess.†

A. D.  
1527.

Henry Courtenay erected a handsome monument to his mother's memory, with her image thereon, on the south side of the altar, in the chapel in which she was buried. This tomb with the altar and its curious ornaments, and the tombs and statues of many other members of the family were demolished by the ruthless hands and blind zeal of the reformers, in the succeeding reigns of Edward 6th. and Elizabeth.‡

Lady Catherine, had by her husband, one son named Henry: he became Earl of Devon, and was created Marquis of Exeter on the 18th June, 1525; and Edmund, who died young. Also, one daughter, named Margaret, who was choked by a fish-bone,

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\* Funeral entertainments are very ancient. Cecrops is said to have instituted them for the purpose of renewing decayed friendships, &c; and Moresin tells us that in England, they were so profuse on these occasions, that it cost less to portion off a daughter, than to bury a dead wife. These funeral feasts are now almost extinct in England, but still survive in Ireland under the name of "wakes."

† Norroy, king at arms, and Richmond, herald at arms, were sent from London purposely to conduct this funeral. The reader will recognize among those who took part in the ceremonial, the names of many families still distinguished in Devonshire.

‡ See Risdon and Hewett.

- A. D. 1527. and died at Colcombe.† To her memory there is a monument of an antique form still remaining in the parish church of Coliton; a recumbent figure of a child, and effigies of an angel at her head, and a dog or lion reposing at her feet, over which were 1. Courtenay arms impaling quarterly France and England, 2. Courtenay alone, 3. quarterly, France and England alone. It bears the following inscription. **"Margaret, Daughter of William Courtenay, Earl of Devon; and the Princess Katherine, youngest Daughter of Edward the Fourth, King of England; died at Colcombe, choked by a fish-bone A. D. MDXXII, and was buried under the Window in the North Transept of this Church."** Singular as it may appear, the north aisle still bears the title of *Choke-bone Aisle*. This monument, after having its beautiful canopy of tabernacle work destroyed, and being otherwise mutilated, while in its original place in the north aisle, was removed to its present situation, and repaired at the expense of Dr. Barnes, at that time the worthy Rector of Coliton.

Amongst some ancient evidence belonging to this family, there remains extant a deed under the

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† See page 18 and 22. Colcombe Castle is at present in ruins, but evidently indicates a degree of bye-gone grandeur, and is situated in a retired nook of the Combe of Coly. Hugh Courtenay resided there in a house which he had built; subsequent Earls enlarged the original edifice, and in 1497, William Courtenay began to extend and adorn the fabric, by giving it a castellated form; but owing to his death, and the attainder of his son Henry, the design was not then carried into execution; but Sir W. Pole, knight, the historian, purchased this property, repaired the castle, and made it his place of abode.

hand and seal\* of this Katherine, Countess of Devon, dated 3. H. 8. and signed Kath. Devonshire: It is directed *To our trusty and well-beloved Councillors, Lewis Pollard, the Kings Sergeant at Law, John Rowe, Sergeant at Law, Sir John Arundell, knight, Steward of our Lands*; and in it she “enables and directs them, to enquire and ascertain what was due for *aid purfile Marier*, expressing, that Margaret her daughter was then above 13 years old, and that by the grace of God she intended to purvey for her a convenient marriage.”†

A. D.  
1527.

\* The seal of Katherine, Countess of Devonshire, as delineated in Sandford's Genealogical History, is here given, bearing the arms of William



Courtenay, Earl of Devon, viz. quarterly, 1 and 4. or, 3 torteaux gules; 2 and 3. Or, a lion rampant azure, for De Ripariis or Redvers; impaling quarterly, first France and England; 2 and 3, or, a cross gules for Ulster and 4th Mortimer: the arms supported on the right side with a dolphin, and on the left with the lion of March: upon the top of the escutcheon appears a demi-rose within the rays of the sun: the seal is circumscribed with

these words, “KATHERINE COUNTESS OF DEVON, DAUGHTER, SISTER, AND AUNT OF KINGS.” The indenture to which the seal is affixed, is dated 24th October, 1515. These arms of William Courtenay, Earl of Devon, impaling those of Katherine his wife, were in one of the windows of Tiverton church, with those of her husband, and were there when Cleaveland wrote 1735, from whom these extracts were taken, but they have been long since removed, and no trace of them remain.

† Cleaveland, page 247.

A. D. Miss Strickland in her *Queens of England*,  
1527. mentions several circumstances connected with this Princess, and amongst others the fact of her being at the tower to receive the Queen "on her arrival from Greenwich to Richmond in February, or late in January 1503, for the Royal purse received a supply by the hands of Katherine of 46s. 8d.," and the Princess who was shortly after born, (which occasioned the Queens death,) received her aunt's and god-mother's name. Previous to the foregoing, it appears in the privy purse expenses "that the Queen devoted a large part of her income to the maintenance of her sisters, but in the last year of her life her expenses were increased by the charges of her sister Katherine's children." The cause which led to the difficulties by which the Countess was surrounded, doubtless arose from her husband, William Courtenay's property being under confiscation, on his imprisonment, as before stated. The account proceeds by stating that "the Queen placed her destitute sister in close attendance on her own person, and took charge of her little children, sending them to be nursed at her palace of Havering Bower (in Essex.) The little Lady Margaret Courtenay choked herself at Havering by a fish-bone, and Lord Edmund, her brother, likewise died there."\* The latter part of this statement respecting their place of residence is incorrect, as they resided at Colecombe, near Colyton in Devon, where both the children died; and it appears highly

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\* Strickland's *Queens of England*. Vol. 1. page 60.

probable that the leaden coffin discovered in St. Peter's church, Tiverton, in 1820,\* contained the remains of Lord Edmund, as some memorial would doubtless have existed had he been buried at Colyton, as in his sister's case; and it is well known that all the monuments in the Earl of Devon's chapel in Tiverton church, were destroyed.† It also appears very likely that these children died nearly at the same time, as the Queen, it is said, "was at the cost of their funerals."

1. Arms of England with a border quartered gu, and az, the 1st. and 4th. embroyney Lions, the 2nd. and 3rd. entoyre fleur dr lis.

2 and 3. Or, 3 torteauxes, for Courtenay. ‡

4. Or, a Lion rampant, az. for Redvers, impaling barry of 6, ar. and az. 3 torteauxes in chief, and a label of 3 points, ermine, for Elizabeth Grey, 1st. wife; and barry nebule of 6, or, and sa. for Gertrude Blunt, 2nd. wife.

*Henry Courtenay*, second of that name, succeeded his father William Courtenay, as Earl of Devon, in 1522, he obtained a grant of the lordship

of Caliland, in Cornwall, and "a fair mansion situate in the parish of St. Lawrence, Poultney, within the city of London," both of which reverted to the Crown by the attainder of Edward Duke of Buckingham; and he was one of the 26 peers who sat on the trial of that Duke. On the death of his mother

\* See part 1st. page 230.

† See Risdon, page 72, and part 2, page 72, note.

‡ These arms within the garter are painted in the roof of the chapel of St. George of Windsor, being knight of the most noble order of the garter. There were likewise this Marquis's arms in a window of the Council chamber in the Guildhall at Exeter; but they have been removed, and are carved on stone by the chapel entrance of Greenway's alms-house, Gold street, Tiverton; on the cornice of which are also the Courtenay arms with those of Greenway.

- A. D. the Princess Katherine, he became possessed also of  
1520. the manors of Plympton, Oakhampton, and Tiverton. He bore a conspicuous part in almost all the occurrences of Henry's reign, and accompanied the King in an interview between him and the King of France, on the celebrated "field of the Cloth of gold." He ran there a joust with the French King, "in which both shivered their lances and maintained their course nobly." He also behaved with great gallantry at a tournament given in honour of the Emperor Charles 5th's. visit to England; and Christian, King of Denmark was nobly received at Dover, by the Earl of Devonshire, and the Bishops of Exeter and Norwich, who conducted him to London.

On the 18th June 1525, he was created Marquis of Exeter, and the same year was one of the commissioners of the King of England, in the treaty made for the redemption of Francis 1st., King of France, then a prisoner to the Emperor Charles 5th.

- He had early in this reign been created Knight of the Bath, and in 1532 was advanced to still higher honour, for he was declared by Henry 8th., before his departure for France, to be the next heir to the Crown. This honour was of short duration, for in  
1533. the following year, the Marchioness of Exeter stood sponsor to the Princess Elizabeth,\* who was then proclaimed heiress to that Throne which she afterwards so ably filled.

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\* Lodge's Genealogy of the Peerage, page 122. The Marchioness gave the infant Princess on this occasion, "three standing howls, graven, all gilt, with a cover," Cleaveland, page 249.

In 1536, he assisted at the trial of Queen Anne Boleyn; and in consequence of a rising in the North amongst the people, to the number of 40,000 strong, the Marquis of Exeter mustered his retainers at Bradninch,\* "and brought," says Hollingshed, "a jolly company of Western men completely appointed," to join the King's forces. In 1538, he was made Lord High Steward, and presided in Westminster Hall at the trial of Lords Darsey and Hussey.

A. D.

1536.

A period however arrived, when he met the fate that then too frequently followed the distinction of pomp and power. He fell under the frowns and displeasure of his imperious master, and Henry beheld with jealousy and envy the virtues of his noble mind, and looked with suspicion on his popularity and extensive influence; for the power which he exercised over a vast body of followers and dependents was little less than Royal. On the 5th November 1538, says Lord Herbert, "Henry Courtenay Marquis of Exeter, and Earl of Devon; Henry Pole, Lord Montacute; and Sir Edward Nevil, brother to the Lord Abergavenny, were sent to the tower, being accused by Sir Geoffrey Pole, brother to the Lord Montacute, of High Treason:† they were indicted for devising to maintain, promote and advance one

1538.

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\* "Henry, Marquis of Exeter was by King Henry 8th, made steward of the Duchy of Cornwall, and of all the Stanneries in both that County and Devonshire; and therefore it was upon the northern rebellion, that he mustered his men in Bradninch, from its belonging to that Duchy." *Cleveland* page 253.

† A tradition exists in Tiverton, where the Marquis generally resided,



- A. D. 1538. Reginald Pole, late Dean of Exeter, and dethrone the King.\* The Marquis and Lord Montacute were tried by their peers, the 2nd. and 3rd. of December at Westminster, before the Lord Audley,

that an old man, named Robert, a weaver, came to him under much apparent anxiety, to say, that on a certain day, if he did not save himself by flight, he would be seized by the King's orders, be sent prisoner to London, and lose his head. The Marquis disregarded this prediction; and when the day arrived, he sent for old Robert to say he was a false prophet, and threatened to have him punished. "My Lord," says the old man, "you have not one moment to spare, fly! for a party of Horsemen are at this time close to the town to take you." The Marquis hesitated for an instant, but it was too late, a party had indeed surrounded the castle, who seized the Marquis in the King's name, on a charge of high-treason, in conspiring with his relative, Cardinal Pole to cause the King's death, and being conveyed a prisoner to London, he there lost his head as old Robert had predicted. See Cleaveland, page 252.

\* "*The Indictment that was found by the Grand Jury in the County of Surrey, against Henry Courtenay, Marquess of Exeter, and Sir Nicholas Carew, (by which it appears what it was for which they were Tried and Condemned.)*"

"Surrey ss. ANNO tricesimo Henrici Octavi, Henricus Marchio Exon proditorie dicebat, *I like well of the proceedings of Cardinal Pole: Et ulterius, But I like not the Proceedings of this Realm, and I trust to see a Change of the World: Et ulterius, I trust once to have a fair Day upon those Knaves which rule about the King: Et ulterius, I trust to give them a Buffet one Day.*"

The accounts preserved by those who wish to give a favorable pretext for Henry 8th's tyrannical conduct, appear feeble indeed, and luckily they all concur in ascribing it to the Marquis of Exeter's "treasonable designs," (as Dr. Burnet expresses it,) in conspiring to take the King's life, and raise Cardinal Pole to his place; but both the Marquis of Exeter, and Lord Montacute had a prior claim: Henry Courtenay as being the son of Katherine, daughter of Edward 4th., and Lord Montacute, as an elder brother of Cardinal Pole, and being the grandson of George, Duke of Clarence, a younger brother of Edward 4th. Thus it appears that the Marquis of Exeter had the first, and Lord Montacute the second claim, before Cardinal Pole.

Lord chancellor, and for that time, Lord High steward of England, by whom they were found guilty. On the 9th January the Lord Marquis, and Lord Montacute, with Sir Edward Nevil, lost their heads on Tower-hill. A. D.  
1539.

On the 4th February following, Sir Nicholas Carew, who was both Master of the Horse, and Knight of the garter, was arraigned for being an adherent to the Marquis of Exeter, and having spoken of his attainder as unjust and cruel,\* it led to his execution on the 3rd of March.

The following year Henry procured from his servile parliament, a confirmation of the Marquis's attainder; "and it is a blemish," says Dr. Burnet, "never to be washed off and cannot be sufficiently condemned, the attainting of some persons whom they held in custody, without bringing them to trial: the chief of them were the Marchioness of Exeter,† and the Countess 1540.

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\* Et quod Nicholas Carew Miles malitiose et proditorie murmuravit, et indignatus fuit, et dicebat hæc verba Anglicana, *I marvel greatly that the Indictment against the Lord Marquess was so secretly handled, and to what Purpose, for the like was never seen.*

*Per Bagam Sessio nis tent' coram Thoma Audley, Chancellor et aliis, 30. Henry 8. Cleaveland, appendix page 28.*

† Miss Strickland, in her lives of the Queen's of England, observes, vol. 5, page 222, "the wretched widow Gertrude, late wife of the elegant Marquis of Exeter, involved in her husband's sentence, laid in the Tower expecting daily execution," and from whence she was released at the general pardon, (with six exceptions of which her son Edward was one,) on the accession of Edward 6th. to the Throne.

"She followed Queen Mary to the tower when she released her son, and was afterwards made lady of the bed-chamber, with so high a degree of

- A. D. of Sarum."† To be suspected, was, in those des-  
 1540. potic days, not only a prelude to, but considered  
 a sufficient reason, for punishment and death.

The Marquis was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Grey, Viscount Lisle, by whom he had no issue; secondly to Gertrude, daughter of William Blunt, baron of Mountjoy, by whom he had issue Henry, who died young, and Edward, who, though only twelve years old at the time of his father's execution, was confined in the tower during the remainder of this reign, and the whole of that of Edward 6th., being one of the six

favour, that she shared the bed of her Royal kinswoman." id.

"The Marchioness made her will September 25th, 1558, 4 and 5 of Philip and Mary, in which she bequeathed her body to be buried in the Chancel, or Parish-church when she should depart this life, appointing a Dirge and a trental of Masses to be said or sung for her: to her sister Catherine Berkeley she gave a gown of black velvet flowered with jennets: to her brother Mr. John Blunt, £20; and to her cousin James Blunt a standing gilt bowl with a cover. She was buried in Wynburn-Minster in Dorsetshire, where, on the North side of the Choir, is a fair but plain marble Monument erected to her memory, round the upper part of which was formerly inlaid a plate of brass, whereon was a latin inscription, but the greatest part of it is now gone. The whole Epitaph is registered in the Parish-book in English, as follows;—

"In this lyes entombed Gertrude Blunt, Marchioness of Exeter, daughter of William Blunt. Lord Mountjoy. and wife of Henry Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, and Marquis of Exeter, beheaded by King Henry 8th; which Henry Courtenay was son of William Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, by Catherine the daughter of King Edward 4th." Cleaveland, page 253.

† Henry's history of Great Britain, vol. 2. pp. 308-310. Cleaveland (page 252.) says that the charge against her was "that she had confederated with Sir Nicholas Carew, in his treasons." The treason of Sir Nicholas is detailed in the preceding note, and the lady of "the Lord Marquess" abetted him; and this was her crime!!

who were specially excepted from the general pardon, granted by this king on his accession. The extensive domains belonging to the Marquis were, after his attainder, granted by Henry 8th, to various persons† in whose possession they remained until the reign of Edward 6th.

A. D.

1540.

*Edward Seymour*, Duke of Somerset, uncle to the king, and regent and protector of the kingdom, obtained from his nephew, a grant, among other lands, of the lordship, hundred, manor, and borough of Tiverton, of which he held possession until his fall and death;\* and although it is said his family retained them for three years after this event, from the date of the grant made to Sir Henry Gate, that does not appear to have been the case.

1547.

1553.

Arms, Erm. 3 }  
Lions rampant. }

*Sir Henry Gate*, knight, then obtained from Edward 6th., in addition to other grants,† the manor of Tiverton, as appears by the

‡ When, after the attainder of this Earl, his lands came into the possession of the crown, all the parks belonging to the Earldom were destroyed, and the land was turned to tillage and pasture by order of Henry 8th; much to the annoyance of the neighbouring gentry. Cleaveland tells us that the king acted at the suggestion of Sir Richard Pollard, but that he afterwards regretted having given such orders.

\* *Edward Seymour*, Duke of Somerset, was brother of Lady Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry 8th. He was brought to trial on a charge of treason and felony, and was acquitted by his peers, 388 in number, of the first, but was pronounced guilty of the second, for which he was sentenced to suffer death, and this great and good man, was executed on Tower-hill, 22nd. January, 1553.

† The following detailed account of this grant is copied from records in the Augmentation office.

A. D. following. "Gate (Henrici,) Militi, Manerium de Tiverton, et alia concessa in Com. Devoniae et aliis."\*

\* A Pars Original. Anno 6. Rotulo 107. Jones's index to the records, vol. 1.

IX<sup>o</sup> die Junii in } M<sup>d</sup> that I Sr Henry Gate Knight one of the Kinge  
A<sup>o</sup>. R. R. vi. vij. } M<sup>as</sup> privie Chamber do requyre to have of his Highnes  
to me and to my heires, the pticler pcells herunto annexed beinge of suche  
clere yerelye value as in the said pticlers is specyfyed and conteyned. In  
Wytnes whereof I have subscribed this bill and set to my seale the tenth daie  
of June in the seventh yere of the Raigne of our said Sovereigne Lorde  
Edwarde the sixte by the grace of God Kinge of Englonde Fraunce and  
Ireland defendor of the faith and in earth of the Church of England and  
also of Ireland the supreme head.

## HENRI GATE.

Com Devon. Pcell terr et possessionu Edwardi nup Ducis Soms de felonias  
convict ac quondm pcell terr and possessionu Henrici nup  
Mchionis Exon de alt pdicon attinct.

	i.	s.	d.
Redd libox tenent ibm p annum . . . . .	xij.	xij.	
Redd custom tenent ibm p annum. . . . .	xxxiiij.	xj.	viiij.
Redd cert terr Vton ibm p annum. . . . .	xxix.	xv.	x.
Novo redd Johnis pson & Phi Colmen p redd unius pastur voc Byclyff & Chyppisclyff p annum. . . . .		iiij.	
Redd libox tenentiu infra Burg ibm p annum. . . . .	xv.	xviiij.	iiij
Redd custum tenen infra dem Burg p annum. . . . .	vij.	viiij.	
Redd Repto de Jacobo Grenewaye p quadam pecia terr jux Capell ibm p annum. . . . .			x
Pquis Cur manii Burg hundred pd Coibz annis. . . . .	viiij.	xiiij.	iiij.
Redd resolut Anthonis Worthe p gurgit aque in Herbes & hered phi Copleston de Luccombe p redd terr inclus infra pcu de Tyvton in toto p annum. . . . .		ix.	
Feod ppos manii pdci p annum. . . . .		ix.	vj.
Regard ppos Burg ibm p annum. . . . .			xij.
Feod batt burg ibm p annum. . . . .			vj.
Feod batt hundred ibm p annum. . . . .			x.
Feod Garvini Carewe mitu custod pcox de			

Maniu de  
Tyverton cu  
Burg &  
Hundr ibm.

Whether this Sir Henry Gate, knight, was connected with Sir Thomas Gates, (who bore similar

A. D.

1540.

Maniu de  
Tyverton cu  
Burg &  
Hundr ibm.

Tyverton & Aysaheley in Com Devon.

Ac mri deduct oim ferax quibuscunq :  
coxdm p cox de Tyverton & Aysahe-  
ley ac offic custod totius capitlis Ma-  
neois manii de Tyverton cu omibz &  
omimod gardin curtilag ortis pomar  
horreis stabul cu oibz al edificiis eidm  
capitl manc adjacen cu oibz & singlis s  
ption hend tenend excend & gaudend  
eadem officia pfat Garvino Carewe milit  
p se vel p sufficien deput s sive depu-  
tat s sufficien ad Pmu & P t mio vite  
ipius Garvini Carewe milit<sup>s</sup> solvend ad  
fest Annunc Bte Marie Virginis & Sci  
Michis Archtri p equal porcones p  
annum. ....

vj. xx.

Feod Johnis Haydon Senl Cur manii

Burg & Hundred pd p Annum. .... xxxiij. iiij.

xx li

Reman Clare p Annum. .... iiijxix. xvij. x.

Ex. vij<sup>mo</sup> die Junii 1553, p Henricum Leke,  
audit.

IX<sup>o</sup> die Junii Ao. R. R. }  
E. vj<sup>ti</sup> septimo. }

The Kings Matie pleasure is that Sir Henry Gate Knight, one of the gentlemen of his Matie Privie Chamber shall have to hym and to his heires landes and tents suche as the said Sr. Henry shall desier to the clere yerelie value of one hundreth poundes and to reave the ovplus in a yerelie rent or ells to pay twenty yeres pchas. Make therfore assurance unto the said Sr. Henry of the manor of Tyverton and the Man<sup>rs</sup> of Pacombe and Harecombe with the psonage abovesaid. To have and to hold to hym and to his heires resvyngwe owte of the sd manors of Pacombe and Haracombe.

The tenure of the said Manor of Tyverton to be holden by knights svce, and the manor of Paracombe and Haracombe wth the ptronage of Cledes to be holden in Socage.

Thissues and pftts from the feaste of thanuciacon of our Ladye last past.

Ry. SAKEVYLE.

- A. D. arms,) born at Colleford, in the parish of Colleton,  
 1540. of humble parentage, I cannot discover, although  
 an ancient family called Cate or Gate lived in Ex-  
 minster, in Henry 3rd's. time,\* as would appear  
 from the following deed of agreement.

‘Hæc est conventio apud Axminster an. 51. H. R.  
 inter Meliorem de la Gate ex una parte, et Aliciam  
 et Amiciam hæredes Laurentii de la Gate de terra  
 in Axminster, &c.’) About 1609 he was made govern-  
 or of Virginia: in his voyage to this colony, accom-  
 panied by Sir George Summers, with nine ships and  
 500 men, (being driven from their course by a vio-  
 lent tempest,) they made a fresh discovery of the  
 Bermuda Islands, which had previously received the  
 name of their first discoverer, John Bermudas a  
 Spaniard; and if they were of the family of Sir  
 John and Henry Gates, knights, the former of which  
 was Captain of the Guard, who with the Duke of  
 Northumberland, were taken in arms, supporting  
 Lady Jane Grey, and Sir John was afterwards  
 executed with the Duke, it is very likely to be the  
 same Sir Henry Gate, knight, here mentioned;  
 and this would easily account for Mary's having  
 taken the manor of Tiverton from him, and re-  
 storing it to Edward Courtenay.

The arms of Edward Courtenay } *Edward Courtenay*, third of  
 were the same as his father's. } that name, and only son and  
 heir of Henry Marquis of Exeter, was born about  
 the year 1526, and when his father was beheaded

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\* See Prince, p. 335, folio edition.

he had but just reached his twelfth year; but regardless of his age, and an evident conviction of innocence, least he should raise commotions by revenging his father's death, he was committed to the Tower, where he remained to the close of Edward the sixth's reign.

A. D.

1540.

Edward 6. ascended the throne January 24th, 1546, and on the 20th February following, the day of his coronation, a general pardon was given, "to all manner of persons, except\* six, viz., the Duke of Norfolk, Edward Lord Courtenay, Mr. Fortescue, Mr. Throckmorton, Cardinal Pole, and Mr. Patey; Courtenay remained a state prisoner to the period of the King's death, which occurred in 1553. On the 3rd. August, shortly after Mary had been proclaimed Queen, she came from Wanstead in Essex, to London, accompanied by her sister Elizabeth, followed by the Duchess of Norfolk, and the Marchioness of Exeter; with whom they proceeded to the Tower, and immediately released Edward Courtenay, (with the other state prisoners,) who on the following day was created Earl of Devonshire,†

1553.

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\* In the statute of 32, Henry 8th., c. 49. of general pardon, Edward Courtenay, son of the late Marquess of Exeter, was excepted by name.

† Cleaveland says. "the next day Edward Courtenay was made Earl of Devon, and Marquis of Exeter, and Lord Orford has remarked, that when Queen Mary released Edward, last Earl of Devon, from the tower, she restored him to the Marquisate of Exeter, though that title is omitted by all our historians when they mention him." Stowe preserves the same tale, page 613, where he says, "on the next morrow, August 4th., Edward Courtenay was made Marquis of Exeter." The patent for creating Edward

M.



- A. D. and restored to as much of his father's possessions  
 1553. as then remained in the Queen's hands. As an additional favour granted by Mary to the Earl, there was a clause introduced into the patent, by which he was created Earl of Devon, "with remainder to his heirs male for ever;" and under this patent, the present Earl found great assistance in recovering the title.

"The comeliness of his person was very nearly raising him to that throne," says Lord Orford, "for nearness to which in blood, he remained a prisoner from ten years old;\* and from that time to thirty, when he died, he scarcely enjoyed two years of liberty. It was a happiness peculiar to him to be able to amuse himself with drawing, in an age in which there were so many prisoners and so few resources; and it gives me very favorable ideas of his being naturally accomplished, of a spirit not easily to be depressed, when we find that the Queen no sooner delivered him from his captivity than she wished to marry him; and that he, conscious of

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Courtenay, Earl of Devon, is dated Richmond. 3rd September, 1553, therefore it does not appear he ever became Marquis of Exeter, although I have thought it right to give this conflicting testimony.

\* Lord Orford says, on the authority of Sir T. Stripe, who produces undoubted evidence for his assertion, by giving us the oration pronounced at the funeral by Sir Thomas Wilson, afterwards Secretary of State. Besides his progress in Philosophy, Mathematics, Music, and the French, Spanish, and Italian languages, Sir Thomas adds, "*tanta etiam expingendarum effigierum cupiditate ardebat at facile et laudabiliter cujuscumque: imaginem in tabula exprimeret,*" see Stripe's Memorials, vol. 3. page 339, and appendix, page 192.

his great blood, and yet void of interested ambition, declined a crown, and preferred the younger sister, the Princess Elizabeth. For this partiality, and on the rising of the Carew's in Devonshire,\* who were flattered with the hopes of this match, both the Princess and himself were committed to the Tower, and accused by Wiat as his accomplices.† Our Historians‡ all reject this accusation, and declare that Sir Thomas Wiat cleared him at his death; and indeed the Earl's gratitude would not have been very shining had he plotted to dethrone a Princess who had delivered him from prison and offered him a Throne."

A. D.  
1554.

Courtenay asked permission to travel, which was granted, and he went through France to Italy,

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\* Dr. Heylin, in his history of the Reformation, page 203, says, "that the Carews, and other gentlemen in Devonshire, were drawn into the plot upon assurance of marrying the Lord Courtenay to the Princess Elizabeth, and setting the Crown upon their heads: and if so, then no wonder that the Princess and the Earl were suspected of being privy to the plot." See Cleaveland also page 256.

† Stowe, in mentioning this circumstance, says, "the Lord Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, was brought into the Tower by the Lord Chamberlaine and 200 of the guard, and placed in the bell Tower over the water-gate, 12th February, 1554, and released on the 25th May following." page 622.

‡ See Hollingshed, Heylin, and Burnet. Cleaveland says, page 258, "Sir Thomas Wiat, in hopes of saving his life, he did, before the Council, accuse the Lady Elizabeth, and the Earl of Devonshire as privy to his design;" but on the scaffold (11th April 1554, on Tower hill) he said, "Whereas it is noised abroad, that I should accuse the Lady Elizabeth and the Lord Courtenay; it is not so, good people; for I will assure you, that neither they, nor any other now yonder in Hold, was privy to my rising before I began, as I have declared no less to the Queen and Council, and it is most true."

A. D. as far as Padua, where he died, October 4th, 1556,  
 1556. not without suspicion of having been poisoned ;  
 which seems to carry some probability with it, as  
 he was suspected of being a Lutheran. "The  
 honorable remains," says Cleaveland, § "of this last  
 Earl, after his deplorable death, were deposited in  
 St. Anthony's church in Padua, where a noble monu-  
 ment was erected to his memory, having this inscrip-  
 tion ; 'written,' says Lord Orford, 'in defence of  
 the Spaniards' ;—

" Anglia quem genuit, fueratque habitura patronum,  
 Corteneum celsa hæc continet arca ducem.  
 Credita causa necis Regni affectata cupido,  
 Reginæ optatum tunc quoque connubium.  
 Cui regni procures non consensere, Philippo,  
 Reginam regi jungere posse rati.  
 Europam unde fuit juveni peragrarè necesse,  
 Ex quo mors misero contigit ante diem.  
 Anglia si plorat, defuncto principe tanto  
 Nil mirum ; domino deficit illa pio.  
 Sed jam Corteneus cælo fruiturque beatis :  
 Cum doleant Angli, cum sine fine gemant.  
 Cortenei probitas igitur, præstantia, nomen,  
 Dum stabit hoc templum, vivida semper erunt.  
 Anglia hinc etiam stabit, stabuntque Britanni  
 Conjugii optati fama perennis erit.  
 Improbæ naturæ leges libitina rescindens,  
 Ex sequo juvenes præcipitatque senes."

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§ Prince's Worthies of Devon, p. 261, edition 1810, and Cleaveland, p. 255. Noailles, who was the French ambassador at the court of Mary, gives a very different account, and intimates, that the anxiety was on the Earl's part and not on the Queen's. He says, "Ceste Royne est en mauvaise oppinion de Courtenay pour avoir entendu qu'il faict beaucoup de jeunesses, et mesme d'aller souvent avecques les femmes publiques et de mauvaise vie, et suivre d'autres compaignies sans regarder la gravité et rang qu'il doit tenlr, pour aspirer en se hault lieu. \* \* \* Mais il est si mal ayse à conduire, qu'il ne veult croire personne et comme celluy qui a demeuré toute sa vie dans une Tour, se voyant maintenant jouyr d'une grande liberté, il ne se

This epitaph is not very elegant, considering the age and place in which it was written; neither is it all true; for it says, that his not having the Queen for a wife was the cause of his travelling, and consequently of his death.\*”

A. D.  
1556.

“Mary,” observes Miss Strickland in her *Queens of England*, “distinguished Courtenay Earl of Devon, with great attention; she endeavoured to form his manners, and appointed a nobleman to guide his conduct. He is said to have contracted habits of low profligacy at the Tower, which she was exceedingly desirous of seeing altered; but he was too late in life for any very rapid improvement, being turned of thirty. His noble person was not, however, deteriorated by the vices with which he was, (in all probability unjustly) charged; for his portrait by Sir Antonio More, presents all the grand outline of our ancient Royal race, the commanding Plantagenets.† The expression of his face is penetrating and majestic, the features high and exquisitely moulded, the forehead lofty and noble, and decorated without by a magnificent chevelure of light brown curls.”‡

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peut saouler des delices d'Icelle, n'ayant aucune crainte des choses qu'on luy metter devant les yeulx.” The Earl's epitaph (see page 92) takes nearly the same view of the subject.

\* Cleaveland, page 262.

† There is a very good portrait of Edward, 12th Earl of Devonshire, at the Duke of Bedford's, Woburn Abbey, painted I should think by Sir Antonio More: on the back ground a ruined Tower.” Notice on illustrious and noble painters, page 111, 112. From this picture a print was taken and published in Lord Orford's works, vol. 3. It is also to be found in Lodge's portraits.

‡ Vol. 5. page 312.

- A. D.           “ An affectionate letter is extant from Edward  
1556. Courtenay to Queen Mary, giving her an account of  
his interview with the Emperor, Charles 5th, in  
Flanders.”

The opinion formed by the historians of this period, though in many points at variance with each other, nearly all concur in drawing the same conclusion, of Mary's anxiety to marry Courtenay, and the general feeling of the nation was in favour of its being so, well knowing that an alliance with a son of Charles 5th, would promote a re-establishment of the Romish religion in England.

Robertson, in his history of Charles 5th, says, “that Cardinal Pole, whom the pope, immediately upon Mary's accession, had dispatched as his legate into England, in order to reconcile his native country to the See of Rome, was detained by the Emperor's command (*Charles 5.*) at Dillinghen in Germany, lest by his presence he should thwart Philip's pretensions, and employ his interest in favour of his kinsman Courtenay Earl of Devonshire, whom the English ardently wished their Sovereign to choose for a husband.”

Burnet imagines “that the Earl of Devonshire's professed attachment to the Princess Elizabeth, occasioned much offence to the Queen, who thought her kindness ill requited when she saw he neglected her, and preferred her sister ; so he was again put into prison.”

Goldsmith says, that “the person on whom her

affections seemed chiefly placed was the Earl of Devonshire ; but that nobleman, either disliking her person, or having already placed his affections on her sister Elizabeth, neglected all overtures to such an alliance. Cardinal Pole, who though invested with that ecclesiastical dignity, was still a layman and a person of high character for virtue, generosity, and attachment to the Roman Catholic religion, was thought of ; but as he was in the decline of life the Queen soon dropped all thoughts of him."

A. D.  
1556.

Hume states that "there were three marriages concerning which it was supposed that Mary had deliberated after her accession. The first person proposed to her was Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, who being an Englishman nearly allied to the crown, could not fail of being acceptable to the nation ; and as he was of an engaging person and address, he had visibly gained on the Queen's affections,\* and hints were dropped him of her favorable disposition towards him.† But that nobleman neglected these overtures, and seemed rather to attach himself to the Lady Elizabeth, whose youth and agreeable conversation he preferred to all the power and grandeur of her sister. This choice occasioned a great coldness in Mary towards Devonshire ; and made her break out in a declared animosity against Elizabeth."

Sharon Turner, in his History of England, after remarking on the number of foreign princes who

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\* *Dépêches de Noailles*, vol. 2. pp. 147, 163, 214, and 15. Vol 3. p. 27.

† Godwin, page 329.

- A. D. 1556. had aspired to the hand of Mary ; says, " but besides these foreigners, two Englishmen had also pretensions to the splendid matrimony." He mentions Cardinal Pole, as having attained the age of 54 years, and " much broken down by repeated disease," but " the Englishman to whom her preferring feelings for a husband turned, was Courtenay ; whose mother, the Marchioness of Exeter, had been the Queen's playfellow, the beheaded Countess of Salisbury her earliest governess. After many years entire separation, she met him a prisoner in the Tower, when she entered London. His person and name so immediately interested her, that the next day she restored to him his father's title, soon after, with great ceremony created him Earl of Devonshire,\* and at the splendid pageantry of her coronation, appointed him to carry her sword of state. Her attentions were so marked, that within ten days after her entry into London it was believed that she would wed him, although the close imprisonment had deprived him both of education and experience. His mother was in high reputation for her prudence and virtue, and so regarded by the Queen as to be selected to share her bed. She gave him the choice of the most pleasant mansion in the metropolis, and he devoted himself so submissively to her, as not to pay a visit to any one without asking her permission.†

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\* " On the third of September." *Stowe*, 616. It was in her contemplation to make him Duke of York. *Noailles*, 137. Descending from Clarence, he was the heir of the White Rose family."

† " *Noailles*, p. 109, and 147. It was with great difficulty he

Hence, although the Spanish envoy in August suggested, as from himself Philip the son of Charles 5th for her royal husband, she did not appear to favour the intimation ;‡ but in six weeks afterwards her inclinations began to lessen towards Courtenay,§ and to befriend the prince of Spain. The French Ambassador in obedience to his master's wishes, used every effort of his ingenuity to divert her from this new idea, and also obtained the concert of the Venetian envoy,\* At one moment the Queen seemed to be resuming her partiality for the English youth,|| but in twelve days afterwards she declared herself dissatisfied with his vicious irregularities.† The Prince of Spain sent a nobleman privately from his court to make his personal compliments to her, and

A. D.  
1556.

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obtained leave from her to dine with the French Ambassadress."

‡ "A quoi elle n'a gueres prêtè l'oreille." Lett. Noailles, 13, Aug."

§ The Queen had declared to those who had spoken to her of Courtenay ; "Qu'elle s'est excusé sur la jeunesse et le peu d'experience et suffisance qu'il peut avoir au mainement des affaires." This made the chancellor fear she was thinking of Cardinal Pole. Noailles, Lett. 25th Sept. p. 169."

\* "See the details of his earnest conversation with Gardiner on this point, 9th Sept. p. 178, 23rd, p. 180 ; and the French king's letters on 25th Sept. p. 121, and 2nd October, p. 204."

|| "Noailles writes to his court, that on the 6th of October, Courtenay was six hours alone with Mary and his mother, and that it was said she had affianced herself to him, p. 218."

† "Noailles Lett. 17th October, p. 219. And yet, unless the high panegyric delivered abroad on Courtenay's death, on both his attainments and conduct, was entirely the invention of the reverend orator who uttered the funeral tribute of friendship to his memory, this nobleman could hardly have been so undeserving as it became the fashion to represent him, after Mary turned her more aspiring ambition towards the Emperor's son."

N.



- A. D. 1556. though the House of Commons expressed its wishes in an address, that she would choose some lord of England for her husband,|| yet she permitted the measures that favoured the Spanish match to be secretly carried on. She expressed more strongly her censures of Courtenay's conduct, and declared, she saw no one in England whom she wished to marry.§ The truth was, that although inclination may have

|| "Ib. Lett. 4th Non. p. 104. She pretended sickness for three weeks to avoid receiving this address, moving only from her chamber to a little chapel near it. She suddenly sent for them when they did not expect it, and a few only were ready to attend. To these she declared that she held her crown from heaven, and relied on that alone to counsel her as to her choice;— that she had not yet decided to marry, but as they declared that it would be for the common good, she would think of it, but would select no one who would not be useful to them, and the most preferable person. Noailles, page 270."

§ "Noailles, p. 245. The doctor in his sermon on Courtenay, noticed these traits of his character. This funeral oration was preached by Dr. Thomas Wilson, at Padua, on the 1st of Sept. 1556. He describes him as being imprisoned in his twelfth year for 14 years, during which period he wholly devoted himself to study, and that neither the "*angustia loci, nec solitudo, nec amissio libertatis, illum a literis avocarent;*" that he made such progress in philosophy that no nobleman was equal to him in it; that he also explored "*mysteria naturæ;*" that he entered into "*mathematicorum labyrinthæ;*" that he was so fond of painting, that he could easily and laudably make any ones portrait on a tablet; that he was equally attached to music, and had obtained in it "*absolutam perfectionem,*" and that to these acquisitions he added the French, Spanish, and Italian languages. In manners he was grave without pride, pleasant without levity, prudent in speech, cautious in answering, modest in disputing, never boasting of himself nor excluding others, and though familiar with many, yet intimately known to few." Strype: app. Eccl. Memo. Vol. 3. page 422. He could not therefore be that illiterate and weak person which some have described him to be, whatever deductions we may make for the warmth of friendly praise. The "*incomptus*" in artificial manners, for which Virgil was remarked, may have been at first mistaken for intellectual deficiency, because from his long and early imprisonment he was not yet trained in them."

attracted her to Courtenay, the spirit of her father, which was a part of her character, led her to the splendid and ambitious. The son of the Emperor would be the greatest Prince in Europe, as well as the child of its most distinguished Sovereign. All that could flatter the pride of a woman as well as of a Queen combined to make Philip her final selection."

A. D.

1556.

Dr. Lingard, in his history of England, says more of Courtenay, and less to his credit, than any other historian. But his account is so improbable in many points, written in such a virulent opposition to Courtney, and so much at variance with the statement of others, that I have refrained from giving it.

Sir James Mackintosh, says, "the main object of the Catholic party was to secure their church, by obtaining a suitable marriage for Mary. Cardinal Pole was mentioned, but his age of 53 formed an insurmountable objection. The youth and beauty of her cousin, Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, perhaps pleased for a moment the stern and gloomy Queen. He does not seem to have betrayed any partiality for Elizabeth till Mary openly declared against him; though Burnet tells us that the Queen was thought to have some inclination to marry him, had he not shewn a preference for Elizabeth who had much the better share of the beauty that was between them. She objected to some of Courtenay's irregularities, but as they had but little scope during his long imprisonment, it is very improbable that she should have considered them as without excuse; although he might have contracted in the

N. 2.

- A. D. Tower, connections, propensities, and manners unsuitable to his station. True Englishmen, of both religions, must have preferred a native to a foreign husband, especially if the latter were formidable in his strength, and tyrannical in his temper and policy.”
- 1556.

Miss Strickland, in her lives of the Queens of England, has treated Courtenay with considerable asperity, in attributing to him, both treachery to his friends, and ingratitude to his benefactress. Want of courage might be easily mistaken for inexperience, under the circumstances; and while it is admitted by all, that the insurrection in the west under Sir Peter Carew, was intended to favour Courtenay; admitting also, as she observes, “the particular religious opinions, he (Sir Peter) wished to establish was the Protestant strongly tinctured with Calvinism,”\* it is most unlikely that he should favour Sir T. Wiat, who was an avowed Roman Catholic.

With this Earl terminated the government of the noble house of Courtenay, in Tiverton, which had continued, with some short interruptions, for 260 years, and their posterity had been seated in Devonshire above 600. With justice has Langard observed, that the inhabitants of Devon and Cornwall were devoted to this family. To their support both high and low appealed for patronage; the rich found in them a pattern, and the poor a friend. “They were ranked among the chief barons of the

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\* See page 41.

realm," observes Gibbon, "nor was it until after a strenuous dispute, that they yielded to the fief of Arundel the first place in the parliament of England: their alliances were contracted with the noblest families, the De Veres, Despensers, St. Johns, Talbots, Bohuns, and even the Plantagenets themselves; and in a contest with John of Lancaster, a Courtenay, bishop of London, and afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, might be accused of profane confidence in the strength and number of his kindred. In peace the Earls of Devon resided in their numerous castles and manors of the west: their ample revenue was appropriated to devotion and hospitality; and the epitaph of Edward, surnamed, from his misfortune, the *blind*, from his virtues, the *good* Earl, inculcates with much ingenuity a moral sentence, which may however be abused by thoughtless generosity. After a grateful commemoration of the fifty five years of union and happiness, which he enjoyed with Isabel his wife, the good Earl thus speaks from the tomb:

What we gave, we have;  
What we spent, we had;  
What we left, we lost.

But their losses in this sense were far superior to their gifts and expences; and their heirs, not less than the poor, were the objects of their paternal care. The sums which they paid for livery and seisin attest the greatness of their possessions; and several estates have remained in their family since the 13th and 14th centuries. "In war, the Courtenays of England fulfilled the duties and deserved the honours of chivalry. They were often entrusted to levy and command the militia of Devonshire and

A. D.  
1556.

- A. D. 1556. Cornwall; they often attended their supreme Lord to the borders of Scotland; and in foreign service, for a stipulated price, they sometimes maintained fourscore men at arms, and as many archers. By sea and land, they fought under the standard of the Edwards and Henry's; their names are conspicuous in battles, in tournaments, and in the original list of the order of the garter; three brothers shared the Spanish victory of the Black Prince; and in the lapse of six generations, the English Courtenays had learned to despise the nation and country from which they derived their origin. In the quarrel of the two roses, the earls of Devon adhered to the house of Lancaster, and three brothers successively died, either in the field or on the scaffold. Their honours and estates were restored by Henry 7th; a daughter of Edward 4th was not disgraced by the nuptials of a Courtenay; their son, who was created Marquis of Exeter, enjoyed the favour of his cousin Henry 8th; and in the camp of Cloth of Gold, he broke a lance against the French monarch. But the favour of Henry was the prelude of disgrace; his disgrace was the signal of death; and of the victims of the jealous tyrant, the marquis of Exeter is one of the most noble and guiltless. His son, Edward, lived a prisoner in the Tower, and died an exile at Padua; and the secret love of Queen Mary, whom he slighted, perhaps for the Princess Elizabeth, has shed a romantic colour on the story of this beautiful youth. The relics of his patrimony were conveyed into strange families by the marriage of his four aunts; and his personal honours, as if they had been

legally extinct, were revived by the patents of succeeding princes. But there still survived a lineal descendant of Hugh, the first Earl of Devon, a younger branch of the Courtenays, who have been seated at Powderham castle about 400 years, from the reign of Edward 3rd, to the present hour. Their estates have been increased by the grant and improvement of lands in Ireland,† and they have been recently restored to the honours of the peerage. Yet the Courtenays still retain the plaintive motto,\* which asserts the innocence, and deplores the fall of their ancient house. While they sigh for past greatness, they are doubtless sensible of present blessings: in the long series of the Courtenay annals, the most splendid æra is likewise the most unfortunate; nor can an opulent peer of Britain be inclined to envy the emperors of Constantinople, who wandered over Europe to solicit alms for the support of their dignity and the defence of their capital.”†

The title of Earl of Devonshire, thus becoming extinct by the death of Edward Courtenay, it was granted by James 1st. to Charles Blount,

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‡ This extensive property was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir William Courtenay of Powderham, knight, 5th of that name, in 1585. See *Cleveland*, page 297.

\* “Ubi lapsus? Quid feci?—A motto which was probably adopted by the Powderham branch, after the loss of the Earldom of Devonshire, &c. “The primitive arms of the Courtenays were;—*Or, three torteaux, gules*, which seems to denote their affinity with Godfrey of Bouillon, and the ancient counts of Boulogne.”

† See Gibbons's decline and fall of the Roman empire. Vol. 11. p. 297.

- A. D. The arms of Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, were 1. Barry of 6. or. and sa. nebule, for Blount.  
 1556. 2. Ar. 2 wolves, cuisant sa, a bordure or, entayre saltier, gules.  
 3. Or, a tower triple towered, az.  
 4. Verry, ar. and az.

Lord Mountjoy,\* who was, 21st July 1603, created Earl of Devon at Hampton Court; but on his death in 1606, without legitimate issue, the title became again extinct, until recovered by Lord Courtenay of

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\* "This ancient family is said to have its rise from the Blonde or Blondi in Italy, where historians derive them from the Roman Flavi.

Blount, Lord of Guines in France, had three sons, who came to England in the Conqueror's time. One returned again into France. From Sir Robert is descended Stephen, second son of Gilbert, (or Hubert) Le Blount, who married Mary, sole daughter and heiress of Sir William Le Blond, of Saxlingham, in Suffolk, the 4th in a direct line from William, brother to the 1st Sir Robert, from whom are descended all the Blounts in England."

*Banks dormant and extinct Baronage. Vol. 1. page 37.*

In Henry 6th's time, Anne, daughter of Ralph, Lord Nevile, first Earl of Westmorland, married first, Humphry, Duke of Buckingham, and secondly Walter Blount, Lord Mountjoy of Thurverston in the County of Derby.

In Henry 7th's time, Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, married first, Robert de Willoughby Lord Brooke, and after William Blount, Lord Mountjoy; this was very likely a son of Walter above mentioned, and as no issue is given by Mills, in his Catalogue of Honour, (from whence this descent is taken,) in all probability the title became extinct, as we find, Sir John Blount, knight, was, by Henry 8th, created Lord Mountjoy, whose daughter Elizabeth had by Henry 8th. a son, Henry Fitzroy. He was created at Bridewell, 14th July, 1525, earl of Nottingham, and afterwards Duke of Richmond and Somerset, but he died without issue.

"Charles was a nobleman of great eminence; and while a commoner, had followed the profession of arms with considerable degree of credit, and had a command in the fleet which destroyed the Spanish Armada. The 42nd. of Elizabeth he was constituted Lieutenant of Ireland; and repulsed the Spaniards with great honor at Kinsale. The same important office he held again the 1st. of James 1st., by whom he was also made knight of the garter. Camden styles him "a person famous for conduct, and so eminent for courage and learning, that in these respects, he had no superior, and but few equals." But the enjoyment of his last honours was only for a short time. It is said

## Powderham, in 1832.†

A. D.

1556.

After the death of the last Earl of Devon, (although Sir William Courtenay of Powderham was the next male heir,) this inheritance, including the manor of Tiverton, and advowsons of the three portions of Pitt, Tidcombe, and Clare, were divided between

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he had engaged in a mutual affection, and even promise of marriage with the Earl of Essex's sister, Penelope, before she was married to Robert, Lord Rich. By this lady it is affirmed, he had five children, Charles, Montjoy, St. John, Elizabeth, and another daughter. The eldest son Charles, was by favour of James 1st. created Lord Montjoy, of Montjoy Fort in Ireland, but he died without issue."

*Banks dormant and extinct Baronage. Vol. 3. page 538.*

† The present Earl of Devon derives his descent from Sir Philip Courtenay, knight, third son of Hugh, 2nd. Earl of Devon of this illustrious family, (see page 23,) who had the manors of Powderham and Moreton. Sir Philip married Ann, daughter of Sir Thomas Wake of Bisworth, in Northamptonshire, and had issue Richard, Bishop of Norwich; Sir John Courtenay, William, and Margaret who married Sir Robert Cary of Cockington.

*Sir John Courtenay*, married Joan, daughter of Alexander Champernon, and had issue,

*Sir Philip Courtenay* of Powderham, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Lord Hungerford, and had issue Sir William, Sir Philip of Molland, Peter Bishop of Winchester, Sir Edmund of Deviock, Sir Walter, with two other sons and two daughters.

*Sir William Courtenay*, married Margaret, daughter of William, Lord Bonville, and had issue. This family continued its direct descent to

*Sir William Courtenay*, 7th. of that name, who married Anne Bertie, 2nd. daughter of James, Earl of Abingdon, and had issue five sons and two daughters. The two elder sons died s. r, 3rd. Sir William his successor; 4th. Henry Reginald, who married Catherine, daughter of Allen Lord Bathurst, and had issue William, and Henry Reginald, Bishop of Exeter, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, 2nd. Earl of Effingham, by whom he had issue William, the present Earl, who married 29th November 1804 Lady Harriet Leslie, daughter of Sir Lucas Pepys and the Countess of Rothes, and has issue; and 5th (or 3rd serving son,) Peregrine, who married Lucy, daughter of Benjamin Incedon esquire, of Pilton House, near Barnstaple.

*Sir William Courtenay*, eldest surviving son, succeeded his father, and

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A. D. the heirs of the four sisters of Edward, the great  
1556. grandfather of the last Earl.\* They were,

Maude, the eldest, wife of John Arundell of Talferne;

Elizabeth, wife of John Tretherf;

Isabell, married to Mohun, of Hall; and

Florence, wife of John Trelawny, of Menhenniot;

married 2nd April, 1741 Lady Frances, youngest daughter of Heneage, Earl of Aylesford, and had issue Sir William, and five daughters. On the 6th May, 1762 he was created a Viscount, and dying about ten days after, was succeeded by his son,

*William*, second Viscount, who married Frances, daughter of Mr. Thomas Clack, by whom he had one son and thirteen daughters. He died in Grosvenor Square, 14th October 1788, and was succeeded by his only son,

*William*, third Viscount Courtenay, to whom the title of Earl of Devon was restored in 1832. His birth was thus recorded in the Exeter paper,—

“Our Cathedral and parish bells, all day long last Saturday proclaimed our “universal joy for the birth of a first son, and auspicious heir of the Right “Houble. Lord Viscount Courtenay, of whom his very amiable Lady was “happily delivered,—by whom the lineal descent of that ancient noble house “denominated of Powderham, &c. may probably be perpetuated both in “name and blood to the end of time.”

He died without issue in 1835, and was succeeded in his title and estates by his cousin William, the present and 14th Earl of Devon, and eldest son of Henry Reginald, Bishop of Exeter, as before stated.

\* Amongst the records in the Tower is a grant of 42nd. Henry 3rd, to Baldwin de Insula, otherwise de L'isle, of a market and fair to Tiverton, the former to be held on Monday in every week, and the other annually, (of three days duration,) on the eve, day, and morrow of St. James the apostle.

In an account also of the borough and hundred of Tiverton, 3rd. Edward 1st, the Lords are noted to have the profits of *four* fairs, kept yearly within the borough; one on St. Andrew's day; a second on the translation of Thomas the martyr; the third on St. James's day; and the last on St. Giles's day; also the income arising from the markets: and it is stated in some extracts from a charter, said to be among the Courtenay papers at Trelawny, the seat of Sir J. S. Trelawny, baronet, that a market was granted to Tiverton, 17th. Edward 2nd, by Sir Hugh Courtenay, knight, accompanied by

who had an only son Walter, and through him the present Sir William S. Trelawny, baronet, of A. D. 1558.

conditions and circumstances of which the following formed a part. The Lords of Tiverton borough are shewn to have repaired the shambles, and to have had the profits 7. Henry 7th; but by an indenture of Sir Hugh Courtenay, knight, to divers persons and their heirs of all the profits of the market of Tiverton, and the toll of all merchandizes brought to market every Monday in the year, to be distributed in charity, is dated 17. Edward 2nd; it therefore appears evident that the market tolls &c. were preserved to the Lord of the Manor, who secured the proceeds to the poor of the parish.

Under the same date as above, there is an indenture by Sir Hugh Courtenay knight, granting to the men of the town of Tiverton, "that all Merchandize brought to the said Market, shall be free and quit for selling the said Wares without any Toll to be given or demanded;" yielding yearly for compensation 6s. 8d; and the two fairs a similar sum.

It is the doctrine of Lawyers at the present day, that no charters of privileges are legal, except by grant from the Crown: but such an opinion would have been repudiated in the middle ages. A common grant of land was then termed a charter, *Charia mea*, and conveyed the property without mentioning generally any of the conditions: but the charters of the Courtenays are altogether in the Regal style: We *nos* (not I,) grant so and so; and a copy of a grant of this nature, from Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, has been given in a note to page 52 of this book. It is possible indeed that this might have been, at that period, the style observed among the nobility, but a very high pretension is visible in every act of this illustrious family.

The 39th year of Queen Elizabeth, the yearly value and distribution of the manor of Tiverton appears as follows;—

	£.	s.	d.
Rents of Assize of the free Tenants, .....	11	18	5½
	2	Hun. Pepper,	
	2	Hun. Cummin.	
Rents of Customary Tenants, .....	41	2	2
Rents of Barton land of the Manor devised by } Copy for Lives, .....	12	7	10
Rents of Customary Tenants for Lives, .....	18	5	and four load of hay.
Total,	86	13	5½
	2	Hun. Pepper,	
	2	Hun. Cummin,	
	4	Load of Hay.	

- A. D. 1558. Harewood is descended, being the only one of the descendants of any of the daughters, that is lineally derived through a male heir only.\*

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Tiverton Borough.

	£.	s.	d.
Yearly rent of Assize of the free Tenants,.....	16	2	2
Rents of Customary Tenants for Lives. ....	7	16	2

Patronages in Tiverton.

Pitte Portion yearly, .....	160	0	0
Tidecombe Portion, .....	130	0	0
Clare Portion. ....	100	0	0
Profits of the Court of the Hundred of Tiverton and other perquisites belonging to the hundred.....	50	0	0
Waifes, Estrays, and felons, goods due and of right apper- taining to the Lord of the said Hundred, worth yearly, ..	50	0	0

There is likewise an Inquisition dated 3. Edward 4th, shewing that Thomas Courtenay Earl of Devon, was seized in fee of the Manor and Borough of Tiverton, Tiverton Hundred, and the advowsons of three portions in the Church of Tiverton, to the Manor belonging.

\* The grant of an estate by John Trelawny esquire, to his eldest son John, when about to marry Florence Courtenay, is dated 8th. Edward 4th; and Sir Hugh Courtenay, knight, grants to John Trelawny esquire, one yearly rent charge of £10, issuing out of the manor of *Tyton*: to have to him until £40. were levied, which was given to the said John with Florence, daughter of the said Sir Hugh in marriage, which bears date the year above stated.

The will of Edward Courtenay, last Earl of Devon, was proved by Walter Trelawny, (son of John Trelawny, and Florence,) and Edward Trethurffe, at Lambeth, dated 1st. Henry 8th; and a licence of alienation to Sir John Arundell, knight, to sell the manors &c. of Plympton, Okehampton, and Tiverton to Sir Francis Godolphin, and Jonathan Trelawny esquire, is dated 32nd. Elizabeth: there were also pleadings in the *quare impedit* for the portion of Pitt in Tiverton, brought by Sir Francis Godolphin, knight, and Jonathan Trelawny esquire, against the bishop of Exeter Peter Courtenay, Hanyball Vyvyan esquire, and others.

It does not appear at what time or way, the manor &c. of Tiverton went out of the Trelawny family; but in an enumeration of the property of Bishop Trelawny at the time of his death, 19th July 1721, Tiverton was not included;

Elizabeth and John Tretherf had issue a son named Thomas, who by a daughter of ..... Trevisa, had issue Elizabeth, wife of John Vyvyan,† (the ancestor, in a direct line, of the present Sir Richard Vyvyan, of Trelamaine, in the County of Cornwall, baronet,) and Margaret, wife of Edward Courtenay, of Larrock;‡ “so that,” says Cleaveland,§ “the estate which the last Earl of Devonshire had, which was very considerable, notwithstanding there were so many branches lopped off from it, was divided into four parts.” By an extract from Jones’s Index, given below, it appears that John Vyvyan

A. D.

1558.

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it therefore appears probable that this property was disposed of in the time of Charles 1st., or Cromwell, in whose wars the Trelawny of that period bore an active part, and his circumstances, in consequence suffered severely.

† “De Johanne Vyvyan, Armiger, occasionato ad ostendendum quo titulo tenet, octavam partem honorem de Plympton, et Okehampton, et alia Maneria, Terras et Tenementa in Plympton, Tyverton, Coliton, Colyford, et aliis.” *Michaelis Recordæ*, 10. *Elis: Rotulo* 41. *Jones’s Index to the Records*, vol. 2.

‡ “I have seen,” says Mr. Carew, in his Survey of Cornwall, “at Hall, a seat of Sir Reginald Mohun, a kind of fagot whose age and painting approveth the credited tradition, that it was carefully preserved by the Earls of Devon, whose seat it was; but whether upon that prescience, or no, there mine author failes me. This fagot, being all one pece of wood, and that naturally growen, is wrapped about the middle part with a bond, and parted, at the ends into foure sticks, one of which is againe subdivided into other twayne.” And so, as was said, the estate was divided between the heirs of the four daughters, and one part of them again subdivided into two: and thus as the titles of this noble family were given to others, so this ancient and great estate, part of which did belong to the barons of Okehampton from the time of the conquest, and part to the earls of Devonshire from a little time after, and were both united in the family of Courtenay, and continued in that family for many generations, was, upon the death of this earl, all torn to pieces, and parcelled out to strangers.” *Cleaveland*, page 264.

§ Page 264.

- A. D. was called on to shew in what way he held lands  
 1538. in Tiverton, and other places, with one eighth part  
 of the honor of Plympton, and Okehampton.

In a short time this manor was divided and subdivided into so many parts by intermarriage\* and sale, that it is difficult to trace it. Mr. Dunsford in his history of Tiverton, page 100, observes "when Mr. Risdon wrote his Survey of Devon, about the year 1630, he counted 40 parts"; and concludes the passage by observing "that he had not been able to derive how this manor had passed for a great number of years then last past." Mr. Risdon however, does not state one word of the kind. He mentions little about the manor of Tiverton, and nothing regarding its ultimate descent.

- The arms of Coleman were } One portion, however, became  
 1560. per fesse Ar, and Sa; a } the property of W. Coleman, es-  
 cross flory between 4 mul- } quire, "probably," says Dunsford  
 lets, all counter-changed. }

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\* "In 1641, John Trelawny, of Trelawny, Cornwall, and Ambrose Manaton, of Trecarrel, in the same county, esquire, demised to John Reede, their moiety of Prescott and Prescott Close, (which was part of the manor of Tiverton) for 90 years, for a rent of one penny per annum, and a fine of £100. Ten days later they sold him the reversion of the said moiety for 2000 years, to commence at the end of the former term. In 1647, William Spurwaye, of Okeford, esquire, and his son and heir William, for the sum of £36 sold their 8th part of Prescott and Prescott close, to Thomas Reed, (son of John) for 2000 years, to commence at the end of the copyhold tenure of Grace Reed, relict of John. In 1694, John Northcote, of Westwood, in the parish of Crediton esquire, Katherine his wife, and John their son, sold to Thomas Reed, of Prescott, gent. for £12. and 1 Guinea, their 8th part of Prescott and Prescott Close for ever." I insert this information (which was given to Mr. G. Boyce, by the Rev. Dr. Oliver, from the original documents,) as an instance of the minute subdivisions into which one part of the manor had been broken up at this time.

“an eighth, which remained in that family many years.” A. D. 1560.

They were originally merchants of wealth and respectability, and the first we find is John Coleman, whose son Roger married Wilmot, daughter of . . . . Prous ; whose son Humphrey married Agnes daughter of . . . . Marshall, who had two sons, William, who married Mary daughter of Thomas Southcot, of Colwoodleigh (Calverleigh,) and Francis, whose son Roger had Gornhay about 1630. His son William, barrister at law, born 1659, married *first*, Eliza, daughter of . . . . Bogan, of Gatcombe,\* and *secondly*, Jane, daughter of Sir Edmund Fortescue, of Fallapit. By his first marriage he had William, of Gornhay, esquire, born 1686, who married Jane, daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, by whom he had Edward, Sergeant at Arms, who sold Gornhay in 1811, to the Rev. Wm. Short, and Ralph Barnes, esquire, of Exeter, and the whole is now in possession of the former. Edward married a daughter of . . . . Provis of Shepton Mallet. William had another son, Francis, of Hillersdon, in the parish of Cullompton, who married Jemima, daughter of . . . . by whom he had issue, Augustus, a Captain in the 29th Regiment, who died of a fever in the Island of Grenada, 16th December, 1795, aged 31 ; Francis, who died 30th July, 1799, aged 21 ; and William who was killed in a Naval engagement 14th March, 1795, aged 15. About 1807, the estate of Hillersdon was purchased by Francis Sweet esquire, whose son Robert disposed

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\* His sister Sarah, married Richard Newte, of Duval.

- A. D. 1560. of it to Mr. Were, and Mr. Gamlin, of Tiverton, who sold it again to Robert Baker esquire, of Colli-priest, and he is at present the possessor of Higher and Lower Hillersdon.†

The largest portion of the manor of Tiverton, at this period, about 1560, was in possession of the Trelawny family, whom there is reason to believe, had purchased the portion belonging to the Arundel family.

After the division of the manor between the four great families, the castle, and a portion of the manor, was purchased by Roger Giffard, esquire, } The arms of Giffard were Sable, 3 fusils in fesse, ermine. who settled at Tiverton Castle, which from his residence there, obtained the name of Giffard's Court. He was fifth son of Sir Roger Giffard,\* by Margaret, daughter and heir of John Cobleigh, esquire, of Brightleigh, in the parish of Chittlehampton. Prince describes him as "a gentleman of elegant form and comely presence of person; but of much better accomplishments and endowments of mind. He was no less a cultivator of friendship than of his fields, on which he was an excellent husband; and a liberal benefactor to the poor, as well as a courteous entertainer of the rich."

"He married successively no less than three

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† Hillersdon was an ancient inheritance of the Cruwys family, from whom, in 1770, it passed into the hands of F. Colman esquire.

\* Sir Roger Giffard was third son of John Giffard, of Halsberry, in the parish of Parkham, esquire, whose mother was Anne, daughter of John Corryton.

wives, all (it seems) rich widows, which greatly increased his estate. His first wife was Andria, daughter of Sir Lewis Stukely, of Afton, relict of .... Yoe, of Branton, who died leaving him no issue. His second was Agnes, daughter of John Grindal, of London, and relict of John Duke, of Otterton, in Devon, by whom he had no issue. His third wife was Richord, daughter of John Prouz, of Tiverton, widow of Mr. Walrond of the same place, by whom he had issue George.\* Mr. Giffard died at Tiverton October 8th, 1603, aged 70, and was buried in the church, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory on the northern side of the communion table, adorned with his arms.

A. D.  
1560.

George Giffard esquire, had a son named Roger,† whose daughter by her marriage brought Tiverton Castle to her husband Robert Burgoin, esquire.‡ He had two sons Robert and William,

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\* Prince's Worthies of Devon, quarto edition, page 414.

† By an indenture bearing date 2nd February 1624, it appears that Johanna, widow of George Giffard of Tiverton esquire, in conjunction with her son Roger Giffard, leased to William Leigh of Tiverton, baker, certain lands, "formerly in the occupation of Sir Francis Vyvyan, of Trelamaine, in the County of Cornwall, knight, (by the name of Francis Vyvyan esquire,) which on the 4th November 1621, was leased to said George Giffard, being all that moiety or halfendeale of lands consisting of one eighth part of the disparked park called Ashley Park, and Howden, then lately enclosed by Roger Giffard, father of George Giffard, containing about 25 acres, between lands called Vernham, now, or late in the occupation of John Deyman gentleman, on the East, a parcel of ground being part of the disparked park called Ashley park, now in the occupation of John Deyman on the South, the High-way leading from Tiverton towards Bickleigh on the West, and part of the disparked park, called Ashley Park, now in possession of John Palmer, on the North."

‡ We know very little respecting either of these gentlemen. Roger  
P.



- A. D. who sold their right in this inheritance to Peter  
 1702. Arms, Sa. a lion } West, esquire. § He was a lineal de-  
       rampant between } scendant of Mr. John West, of Tiverton,  
       6 billets, Or.    } merchant,\* who, in the year 1605, bought of Sir  
                               Reynell Mohun, knight, the quarter part, held by  
                               that family, of the lordship of the hundred, manor,  
                               and borough of Tiverton, for the sum of £2700.†

Another of the West family purchased at a later period of the Trelawny's, the moiety of the lordship which then belonged to them.

It appears by an indenture dated 3rd December 1707, that George Stucley the elder, and George his son, both of Tiverton, gents, sold to John Upcott of the same place, merchant, some lands, in, or near Elmore, called *Frith*, or *Frise-hayes*,‡ formerly belonging to Sir John Trelawny, baronet, and Jonathan his son, and conveyed by them to George Stucley, father of George Stucley the elder. This property, in extent about 30 acres, was leased for 99 years, by

Giffard was one of Peter Blundell's feoffees, and named in his will. (see book 3.) His son George was elected a feoffee in 1617, and his grandson Roger in 1633. In 1663, Robert Burgoin, esquire, was elected to the same trust as the heir of the Giffard family.

§ Previously of Thorverton, where he resided in 1663.

\* He had a son named John who in 1594 married Edy, daughter of James Blundell, of Tiverton, and niece of Peter Blundell, founder of Tiverton School, and of Ellinor, 1st. wife of John Comyns, alias Chilcot, whose grandson Robert resided at Isleworth, in the County of Middlesex.

† " By this information which was received from Sir Thomas Carew, we are enabled to estimate the value of the lordship, manor, &c. at that time. The fourth part purchased by Mr. West, had most probably remained entire since the first possession of it by the Mohun family, 48 years before the sale."

‡ Frith, or Frise-hayes, known by the name of Frishays, is a part of the Collipriest property.

John Upcott, of Tiverton, merchant, to Peter West, of Tiverton Castle, esquire, for a consideration of £25, which indenture is dated 9th September, 1712; and 14th February, 1763, the remainder of this lease passed from Dame Carew, of Haccombe, widow, to Richard Blundell, of Tiverton, esquire, for a consideration of £36. 10s. which, was then in the possession of George Williams; and thus six eighths of the whole descended to Peter West, and became his inheritance in 1720. One eighth of the lordship continued in the possession of the Coleman family, and the remaining eighth was then the property of John Spurway, esquire, of Oakford.‡

A. D.  
1702.

Peter West, esquire, was high sheriff of the county of Devon, in the years 1707-8. He resided after his purchase of it, in Tiverton castle, until his death, which took place 1726.

By an Indenture bearing date 15th October 1700, it appears this Peter also possessed a fourth part of Collipriest, comprehending part of Cranmore castle, and other lands, amounting to about 144 acres, which he leased for 99 years to Sarah Blundell of Tiverton, (widow of John Blundell, a Justice of the Peace, who died in 1686,) for a consideration of £110, and 2 broad pieces of gold.\*

1726.

By another indenture, bearing the same date,

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‡ These families took as part of the manor, the tolls of the market, which had been provisionally given to the poor, (see note to page 107) to whom they were ultimately restored. See book 3, Market Trust.

\* These coins were struck in the reign of James 1st, and are sometimes called laurels: their value was about 25s. They were called in in 1732.

- A. D. 1702. Peter also granted a lease for 99 years to Sarah Blundell aforesaid, of another 4th part of Collipriest, amounting to about 80 acres, receiving as a consideration £140, and three broad pieces of gold : and on the 20th March 1726, a third quarter was conveyed, for the remainder of a term of 99 years, by John West of Tiverton, esquire, to Philip Blundell, of Tiverton, esquire, grandson of Sarah above named, to be held for his own life, and the reversion of his two uncles Peter and John, for a consideration of £100, and one broad piece of gold.

In 1794, Collipriest appears to have been leased by Peter Blundell, esquire, to William Smale of Tiverton for a term of 3 years, paying annually £136. 15s. The house was originally built by one of the Blundell family, and the three quarters of the estate held by them were sold to Mr. Winsloe, about 1770.

The remaining 4th part, containing part of Cranmore castle, (Skrinkhills,) and other lands, amounting "to about 120 acres, was granted by Dame Dorothy Carew, of Haccombe, commonly called Lady Carew, widow, and Christian West, of Haccombe, her sister, to Dorothy Carew, of Haccombe, her daughter, on a lease of 3 lives, namely, her own, her brother Sir Thomas Carew, baronet, and John Drew, son of Zachary Drew of Dacombe, receiving a consideration of £280;" which indenture is dated 14th June, 1750, and it was ultimately sold by Sir Thomas Carew, baronet. Mr. Winsloe afterwards took the name of Phillips, who about 1804, sold the

whole estate to Mr. Hay, from whom the present possessor, Rev. T. Carew, purchased it in 1823.

A. D.  
1728.

John West, esquire,\* succeeded his father. He however enjoyed the estate but a short time, for he died in 1728.

The inheritance then became the property of his two sisters Dorothy and Christian West, and upon the death of the latter in 1759, the whole of it came into her sister's possession.

Arms of Carew, or,  
3 lions, pas. impaling  
sa. on an escutcheon  
of pretence the arms  
of West.

Sir Thomas Carew, baronet, of Hacombe, by his marriage with Dorothy West, on the 3rd of October 1727, became lord of this manor. He was

sheriff of Devonshire in the year 1732, and died in 1740, leaving issue Sir John, and Dorothy. On the death of Sir Thomas, the lordship reverted to Lady Dorothy Carew, his widow, who had the sole possession of this inheritance for many years, and outlived her son Sir John Carew. He died at the age of 29, of the small pox, leaving issue by Elizabeth, only daughter of the Rev. Henry Holdsworth, of Dartmouth, Sir Thomas his successor; John West, in Holy Orders, who married Lydson, daughter of the Rev. Charles Smallwood, and had issue; Henry, a Captain in the Royal Navy, who married Maria, daughter of the Rev. Henry Fownes and had issue; and Dorothy Christiana. In the year 1768, she purchased of the Rev. Mr. Spurway, his eighth part of the said lordship, and died in 1772.

1740.

1768.

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\* This gentleman was also elected one of the feoffees of Blundell's school, in 1713.

- A. D. 1772. Arms of Carew impaling }  
 checky ar. and sa. On a }  
 canton of the 2nd. a }  
 sword of the 1st. for }  
 Smallwood. }
- Sir Thomas Carew, baronet, of Haccombe, son of Sir John, succeeded his grandmother in the inheritance of seven eighths of this lordship, and the sole ownership of the castle with the estate adjoining. He married in June 1777, Jane, daughter of the Rev. Charles Smallwood, and had issue Henry his successor; Charles deceased; Thomas in Holy Orders, who married 1820, Holway, only daughter of Robert Baker of Cullompton, esquire, and had issue; Elizabeth, who married in 1804 Sir John Duntze, baronet, and had issue; Dorothea; Marcella Cowell, who married 1805 the Rev. James Coles, and has issue; Frances, who married in 1810, John Were Clarke, esquire, of Bridwell, in the parish of Halberton, and has issue; and Jane, who married in 1816, the Rev. William Rayer, M. A. rector of Tidcombe portion, and has issue. Sir Thomas died April 24th, 1805.
1805. Arms of Carew impaling Sa. }  
 an Eagle displayed Ar. beak- }  
 ed and legged Or. within a }  
 border engrailed of the 2nd. }  
 for Palk. }
- Sir Henry Carew, baronet, succeeded his father. He married 3rd October 1806, Elizabeth, only daughter of Walter Palk, of Marley, esquire, by whom he had issue Sir Walter Palk, present baronet; Henry; Thomas; and Robert Palk. He died at Exeter, on Sunday October 31st, 1830, and was buried at Hacombe, November 11th.
1830. Arms of Carew impaling Sa, }  
 a Lion pass: Ar, langued gu: }  
 in chief an annulet Or, for dif- }  
 ference by the name of Taylor. }
- Sir Walter Palk Carew, baronet his father's successor, was born July 2nd, 1807, and is the

present lord of the manor.\* He married, on the 24th of January, 1837, by special licence, Anne Frances, eldest daughter of Lieut. Colonel Taylor, of West Ogwell, in the county of Devon, by whom he has issue.

A. D.  
1837.

The dowager Lady Carew, relict of Sir Thomas, for many years resided in a portion of Tiverton castle, which is fitted for a modern residence. For more than a century past a farm house, rebuilt and enlarged a few years since, has stood upon a part of the ancient building, and is occupied by the tenant of the adjoining barton.

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\* Sir Thomas Carew, was elected a feoffee of Blundell's school, in 1780, Sir Henry, in 1807, and Sir Walter, the present baronet, in 1828.

END OF VOL. I.

TIVERTON :

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## ERRATA.

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- Book 1. p. 18. Note, line 11 from bottom, for *and*, read *the*.  
19. Note, line 2, for 18*d*. read 1||16  
30. line 11, for *Barnet*, read *Burnet*.  
35. line 4, for *comonly*, read *commonly*.  
43. line 2, for *Of*, read *From*.  
64. 70, and 72, Note, for *Spragge*, read *Sprigge*.  
102. Note, line 4, from bottom, for *to*, read *by*.  
111. line 6, after *that*, read *many at*.  
116. line 5, for *subject*, read *subjected*.  
117. Note, line 5, after *they*, read *narrowly*.  
135. line 8, for *was*, read *were*.  
150. line 6, for *scite*, read *sife*.  
151. line 5, for *were*, read *was*.  
153. line 8, for *Councils*, read *Counsels*.  
201. line 13, for *the*, read *these*.  
224. line 9, after *wages*, read *weekly*.  
225. line 2, for *was*, read *were*.  
248. line 3, from bottom, for *Councils*, read *Counsels*.  
252. line 5, from bottom, for *that*, read *which*.
- Book 2. p. 5. line 16, for *as*, read *was*.  
7. Note, for *Tanner's*, read *Turner's*.  
10. line 13, for *Stenusold*, read *Sternhold*.  
12. line 18, for *traitrous*, read *traitorons*.  
27. Note, line 3, for *was*, read *were*.  
30. line 15, for *County*, read *Country*.  
39. line 16, for *Countries*, read *Counties*.

















